

Hafa Adai!

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## OPINION METER

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the worst?

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## INSIDE

### WORLD



A weeklong government offensive is creating a deepening humanitarian crisis in Homs. **➤ PAGE 16**

### YOUNGSTYLE



More young people are shifting to Twitter, almost hiding in plain sight. **➤ PAGE 17**

### LIFE & STYLE



Adele will be richly rewarded come Sunday, when the Grammys hand out their trophies. **➤ PAGE 20**

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Chamber urges governor not to sign zoning bill. **PAGE 3**

## Reward pot hits \$22,000

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
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REPORTER

**T**wo more companies have each offered \$5,000 cash rewards for any information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the death of Emerita "Emie" R. Romero, whose body was found dead at the abandoned La Fiesta Mall in San Roque last Feb. 7.

The first company wants to remain anonymous and is represented by attorney Michael W. Dotts of the O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes, a general practice law firm at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

"[What happened to Romero] is very upsetting for everybody in

**See REWARD on Page 4**

## Kin seeks arrest of Emie's killer before her body is flown home

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

Family members of murdered bartender Emerita "Emie" Relata Romero are urging authorities to arrest the killer before the victim's body is flown to the Philippines.

The Department of Public Safety remained mum on the autopsy results as well as on any updates in the police's investigation.

Police officer Jason Tarkong said that DPS Commissioner Ramon Mafnas has yet to give the go signal to release the autopsy results as well as other

**See KIN on Page 4**



### STARTING SMART

Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior Senior High School students register for the Northern Marianas College's Rota Start Smart Seminar at the former Rota High School last week. The Start Smart Seminar was made possible with funds from the College Access Challenge Grant Program.

NMC

## 3 YEARS AFTER MARINE MONUMENT DESIGNATION

## 'CNMI not getting economic benefits'

» **Feds' upcoming visit not even a 'formal advisory council meeting'**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Three years after President Bush established the Marianas Trench Marine Na-

tional Monument on Jan. 6, 2009, and four years since the release of a 2008 analysis saying that the monument will result in \$333 million in economic benefits in the region, the CNMI has yet to

see any of the promised economic boom nor formally convene its advisory council for the first time, said council member Benigno Sablan.

Sablan, one of the appointed members from the CNMI to the Marianas Monument Advisory Council, said Thursday that two federal appointees to the five-member council are expected to visit the

**See CNMI on Page 4**



# Local

## Gas prices now at \$5.85 to \$6.70 on Rota and Tinian

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Rota and Tinian motorists now pay anywhere between \$5.85 and \$6.70 a gallon, much higher than the \$4.909 to \$5.319 a gallon that their Saipan counterparts are paying. Overall, the CNMI has the highest gas prices among U.S. states and territories.

Among states, gas prices range from \$2.967 a gallon in Wyoming and \$3.027 a gallon in Montana to \$4.149 in Hawaii and \$3.931 in Alaska. Guam's

regular gas is \$4.739, while American Samoa's price is below \$4.50.

On Rota, regular unleaded gasoline is now \$5.85 a gallon at both Sasanhaya Service Station and Luta Gas because of a recent 10-cent hike. Diesel at Sasanhaya Service Station remains at \$6.70 a gallon.

"We have the highest gas prices in the Pacific Rim, and yes, among states and territories. And you have to remember that on Rota, it's not only gas that's expensive, but all

other commodities too," said Rota's Bayview Hotel owner Julian Calvo in a phone interview yesterday.

Calvo said with the recent 10-cent gas price hike on Rota, Bayview Hotel has to pay more for the same amount of gas to transport hotel clients.

"The number of people visiting Rota is decreasing. Even our own people here leave the island because everything costs too much, even power and water bills," he added. Calvo said it's as if he's spending 50 per-

cent for power, and another 50 percent for all other aspects of hotel operations.

On Tinian, Islander Rent-A-Car is also feeling the brunt of another 10-cent hike.

"It's an added cost not only to us, but also to our customers. We have to fill the tank, and customers also have to do the same when they return the rented cars," said an employee at the car rental.

Tinian's regular unleaded gasoline now costs \$5.859 a gallon, up from \$5.759 a gallon,

while diesel remains at \$6.349 a gallon based on prices at Tinian Fuel Services.

The CNMI's isolated location and the high cost of transporting products, especially to Rota and Tinian, all add up to much higher prices on these two islands compared to the capital island of Saipan and the rest of

the United States.

Prices of gasoline are determined by a number of factors, including changes in the world market wholesale prices of gasoline, regional gasoline supply and demand balance, transportation costs, insurance, local distribution, marketing costs, government regulations, taxes, competitive market forces, and investments in retail stations and distribution terminals.

## US Senate panel asked to support Kilili's Rota national park bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) has asked U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee chair Jeff Bingaman and Ranking Member Lisa Murkowski, along with 20 other senators, to support a bill authorizing the Interior secretary to study archaeological, historical, and natural resources on Rota for inclusion in the National Park System.

H.R. 1141, introduced by Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP), passed the U.S. House in January and is now

before the Senate.

"I am writing this letter to respectfully seek your consideration and support of H.R. 1141 for the conduct of a suitability and feasibility study of prehistoric, historic and primary limestone forests on the island of Rota," Santos said in individual letters addressed to U.S. senators, copies of which were provided to the media yesterday.

Sablan, in a separate letter, asked the CNMI Legislature to let the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources know of their unified support to H.R. 1141.

"I hope that you and the rest

of the Rota Legislative Delegation—indeed the entire Legislature, if you can organize it, will make your support of H.R. 1141 known to Chairman Jeff Bingaman, Ranking Member Lisa Murkowski, and the other members of the Committee," Sablan said in a letter to CNMI Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota).

While there has not been any resolution from the House or Senate on the bill, Santos has written to the U.S. Senate panel reviewing the bill.

Santos, in her letter, said Rota has the largest—among islands in the Marianas—repository of

prehistoric, historic, and intact primary limestone forests that are in critical need of preservation.

She said preservation of these important areas through the establishment of a national park will greatly assist in the protection of the native cultural heritage and serve as critical habitat for native endangered flora and fauna "for which the American people and our future generations may enjoy."

"Our past and present legislative delegations and people of the island of Rota have supported and are enthusiastic about the idea of establishing

See SENATE on Page 4

## Change in bail conditions nixed for suspect in sex abuse of minor case

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman rejected yesterday a bid to modify the bail conditions of a 41-year-old man who is charged with sexually abusing a 12-year-old girl on Tinian since she was 8 or 9.

Wiseman said he would not allow suspect John Ibanez Carreon to reside on Tinian and place the girl in possible harm's way.

After being told of Wiseman's concern, Carreon, through assistant public defender Benjamin Petersburg, asked for a continuance in order to find a Saipan resident who will act as his third-party custodian. The judge agreed to the continuance and remanded Carreon back to custody.

There is a \$50,000 cash bail for Carreon's temporary release.

Carreon, through counsel, wants to modify the bail by allowing him to post a \$5,000 cash and \$45,000 in unsecured appearance bond. The defense counsel also proposed a Tinian friend of Carreon to serve as third-party custodian.

Assistant attorney general Russell Lorring opposed the motion.

Police arrested Carreon last Jan. 25 on charges of sexual abuse of a minor and child abuse.

Detective Barbara Arend stated in her report that a concerned citizen called last Jan. 23 about a sexual abuse victim who wanted to die. Arend said she immediately conducted an investigation that led to Carreon's arrest. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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**Plan G Valentines Day Bouquet**

**Other Gift ideas:**

- ✿ Fruit and Wine Baskets
- ✿ Gourmet Baskets
- ✿ Balloon Bouquet
- ✿ Silk and Dried Flowers



# Chamber urges governor not to sign zoning bill into law

## » Group raises concerns about recycling bill, troop store expansion

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce has asked Gov. Benigno R. Fitial not to sign a local bill that makes massive changes to the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008 so that the "progress and improvements" made as a result of such law won't go to waste.

Douglas Brennan, Chamber president, said the business organization "strongly opposes" House Local Bill 17-26, Substitute 1, which passed the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation by a vote of 10-4.

He said the bill is "counter-productive" to the purpose of the original zoning legislation.

"Through the enactment of

the original zoning law, establishing of a zoning enforcement office and the improvements that have come as a result of slow and gradual changes as to how our businesses and communities are organized, we are making progress. That progress and those improvements will essentially be eliminated with the signing of HLB 17-26," Brennan said in a Feb. 4 letter to Fitial.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said the Fitial administration is still reviewing the local bill, introduced by Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan).

Brennan, moreover, said the Chamber believes that "business development throughout the CNMI needs to be well thought out and meticulously

planned in order to enhance the natural beauty and unique culture of our islands."

"The SCC asks you not to sign this...legislation. Please give the current law time to have the effect intended by its original authors," Brennan added.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in the CNMI with some 150 members.

### Recycling bill

Brennan also wrote to House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), raising concerns about House Bill 17-208, which seeks to establish a recycling deposit fee and payment program.

He said while the Chamber agrees with the bill's intent to

address pollution and environmental concerns, solid waste disposal, and the islands' natural beauty, it believes the method outlined in HB 17-208 "does not adequately address those concerns."

Brennan, general manager of Microl Corp., also said the bill's recycling plan already exists "and there are those already collecting for profit doing exactly that."

"Further, HB 17-208 would increase the costs of those existing efforts, most specifically with the reverse vending machine requirements," he added.

### Troop store expansion

The Chamber, in a separate statement, raised concerns about the impact on private businesses of the planned expansion of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, or AAFES, troop store.

Brennan said the Chamber has been involved in several meetings and corresponded with those in charge, letting them know that the Chamber is aware that the current system "is being abused by individuals who have not served in the military and are not entitled to these benefits."

"In years past, products sold through the troop store have ended up on the shelves of local stores. That is not right. The SCC maintains it is not incumbent upon those negatively impacted by abuses to the system to push for change, but by those operating the system, to make doubly sure there is no abuse of what qualified military personnel and their immediate families are entitled to enjoy. They earned it, we did not," Brennan said.

The U.S. Department of Defense is expected to release in

the next few months U.S. Congress-approved funds for the construction of a substantially bigger troop store than the existing facility on Saipan at a cost of \$2.44 million. The existing troop store is only 1,120 square feet and was built in 1987.

Brennan said local importers, retailers, and wholesalers should not have to compete against AAFES and the Defense Commissary Agency.

"Access should be controlled and monitored constantly," he said.

He said the Chamber looks to today's technology for the solution.

"Some at the Chamber have suggested ration cards as a way to limit purchases at the commissaries and avoid abuse. All entitled individuals must present proper identification prior to entry and purchase. A computerized system can easily monitor individuals' purchases," he added.

## NetCare asked to settle unpaid death benefit claims

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Acting CNMI Insurance Commissioner Ivan A. Blanco asked NetCare Life and Health/Moylan's Insurance Underwriters to settle the claims due to survivors of its deceased clients

### CRIME OF THE WEEK

## Homicide at the mall

Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's assistance for information on a homicide that occurred recently at La Fiesta Mall, San Roque.

On Feb. 5, at about 5:45pm, police received a report of a missing person. Emerita Relata Romero, 37, was last seen at approximately 3am earlier that same morning getting into a green- or blue-colored sedan that traveled east by Garapan Market and north on Chalan Pale Arnold.

Romero was wearing a grey sleeveless blouse with a flower on the left corner, black shorts, and sandals with jewels. Emerita has a slender build, 5'6" tall, 100 lbs, long straight dark hair, and brown eyes.

On Feb. 7, 2012, at approximately 2:44pm, FBI agents informed DPS of the discovery of a female body believed to be that of Romero at the La Fiesta Mall in San Roque.

The Department of Public Safety extends deep gratitude to all the volunteers and members of the community for their assistance and support.

DPS and Crime Stoppers are seeking help from the public. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net). Crime stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. (*Crime Stoppers*)

who are also CNMI retirees, or the matter will have to be decided by a court.

"In the interest of avoiding the expenses of litigation, it is our sincere wish that NetCare Life and Health gravely contemplates its next step to avoid the consequences of not fully honoring these particular claims," Blanco said in a Feb. 6 letter to NetCare director Troy K. Moylan.

Blanco, also the deputy Commerce secretary, said these claims involve those previously paid out benefits under the accelerated death benefit under Individual Assurance Co. in which 50 percent is paid out upfront if a member suffers a stroke, heart attack, renal failure, or cancer.

He said the Insurance Commissioner's Office believes that regardless of whether NetCare carried over this benefit under

their contract with the NMI Retirement Fund, the beneficiaries are still entitled to the remaining 50 percent of the policy amount.

"These claims were filed prior to the NetCare Life's termination of its agreement with the NMIRF effective Dec. 15, 2009. As such, these claims still need to be honored," Blanco added.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), who has been asking the Office of the Attorney General and Commerce since 2009 to take action against NetCare/Moylan over its continued alleged failure to issue death benefits to four deceased retirees who were enrolled in the CNMI government's life insurance program, said he's glad that the acting Insurance Commissioner is moving the issue.

"Finally, there's action on this," he added.

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# US, Japan closer to moving many Okinawa Marines

By ERIC TALMADGE  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**TOKYO (AP)**—Japan and the United States agreed Wednesday to proceed with plans to transfer thousands of U.S. troops out of the southern Japanese island of Okinawa, leaving behind the stalled discussion about closing a major U.S. Marine base there.

The transfer, a key to U.S. troop restructuring in the Pacific, has been in limbo for years because it was linked to the closure and replacement of the strategically important base that Okinawans fiercely oppose.

The announcement Wednesday follows high-level talks to rework a 2006 agreement for 8,000 Marines to transfer to the U.S. territory of Guam by 2014 if a replacement for Marine Corps Air Station Futenma could be built elsewhere on Okinawa.

That agreement has been effectively scuttled by opposition on Okinawa, where many residents believe the base should simply be closed and moved overseas or elsewhere in Japan. More than half of the 50,000 U.S. troops in Japan, including 18,000 Marines, are stationed on Okinawa, taking up around 10 percent of the island with nearly 40 bases and facilities.

The two governments said in a joint statement that the transfer of thousands of U.S. Marines to Guam would not require the prior closure of Futenma, as the original pact required. Details of the realignment will be discussed further, but about 10,000 troops will remain on Okina-

wa, as in the original agreement.

Foreign Minister Koichiro Gemba told a news conference that he hoped the progress on the realignment plan would help the two countries step up deterrence in the Asia-Pacific region. He also said Tokyo and Washington would continue efforts to eventually close Futenma.

Progress on the issue is important to the United States, which is revising its military and diplomatic posture in Asia—in what is being called the “Pacific Pivot”—to reflect the rising power of China and increasing tensions over territorial disputes throughout the region.

Washington is also under pressure to make the most of its resources as budget cuts loom in Congress with combat operations are ending in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Wednesday’s statement was vague on specifics of what lies ahead. But senior Japanese officials have said 4,700 Marines will be transferred to Guam. The remaining 3,300 would reportedly rotate among Australia, Hawaii and the Philippines.

Pentagon press secretary George Little said from Washington that talks would continue with both sides working on mitigating the impact on Okinawa, developing Guam as a strategic hub and maintaining an effective U.S. military presence in the region. He also said discussing troop numbers and locations was premature as the bilateral talks continue.



Gemba

Tokyo is hoping the reduction of troops on Okinawa will ease opposition and demonstrate its desire to stand by promises to reduce the island’s share of the troop-hosting burden. Officials say they remain committed to closing Futenma, which the U.S. and Japan agreed to do after the 1995 rape of a schoolgirl by three American servicemen led to mass protests.

“We decided to choose to reduce Okinawa’s burden as much as possible rather than being stuck in a stalemate by sticking to an earlier package,” Gemba said, stressing Tokyo’s effort to serve Okinawa’s interest as much as possible.

But Okinawa Gov. Hirokazu Nakaima gave a mixed response. He welcomed the agreement to move ahead with the Marines’ relocation and a return of some of the bases as serving “Okinawans’ desire to reduce the U.S. military presence,” but repeated his rejection to move Futenma to another location on the island.

“A relocation without local consent would be impossible. We want Futenma moved out of Okinawa,” Nakaima said in a statement.

The most likely replacement site, on a less crowded part of the island, is widely opposed on Okinawa and its viability remains a heated political debate.

Guam, meanwhile, has pushed hard for the troop buildup because of the potential economic boom.

“We are the closest U.S. community to Asia. We are very patriotic citizens.

And unlike many foreign countries and even some U.S. communities, we welcome an increased military presence,” Gov. Eddie Calvo said in a statement last week.

Guam, which is being built up to play a greater role in Washington’s Asia-Pacific strategy, could also stand to get far fewer Marines than expected if the new plan goes through. The tiny U.S. territory had been counting on a huge boost from the restructuring plan, and may have to revise its forecasts.

But officials said the revised number could be more manageable.

A smaller contingent of Marines

would alleviate concerns on Guam that the swelling military presence would overwhelm the island’s infrastructure and environment.

Mark G. Calvo, the director of Guam’s military buildup office, said the territory has been briefed by the Department of Defense about the talks with Japan and supports the transfer, even if it is smaller than expected. He said the idea of reducing it to about 4,000 Marines had been discussed after an environmental impact assessment two years ago pointed to possible problems.

“There are concerns about a loss of economic benefits, but it puts us in a better position to adjust our infrastructure,” he said.

## KIN

From Page 1

information.

Guam chief medical examiner Aurelio A. Espinola conducted the autopsy Tuesday night until Wednesday midnight at the Commonwealth Health Center’s morgue. The autopsy was intended to determine the victim’s cause of death.

The victim’s siblings, Eduardo Relata and Estrellita “Lhet” Relata, said yesterday they are requesting the FBI and DPS to speed up their investigation and arrest their sister’s killer.

“We are hoping that an arrest will be made or the case is solved before we bring our sister to the Philippines,” Eduardo Relata said.

The Relatas are planning to bring Romero’s remains to Bulacan, the Philippines, early next week.

At the same time, the Relatas are appealing to people to stop spreading wrong information or rumors about the death of their sister because their family and relatives

back in the Philippines are currently grieving and in pain.

The Relatas have five other siblings in the Philippines. Romero’s husband and two daughters—17 and 8 years old—are in Bulacan, the Philippines.

The Relatas will be joining Monday night’s candlelight vigil, called “Take Back the Night,” to remember Romero and take a stand against violence on Saipan. The vigil is also a fundraiser for Romero’s two children.

The vigil, being organized by Romero’s co-workers at Godfather’s Bar, will be held at the tourist district in Garapan at 8pm to 9:30pm. Participants are asked to converge near Godfather’s Bar at 8pm.

Participants are encouraged to wear white shirts. Candles will be available at \$5 each for donation to Romero’s family and children.

Romero was last seen alive on Sunday around 3am boarding a green or blue tinted car in the parking lot of Call-A-Ride Saipan in Garapan. FBI agents found her body at the abandoned La Fiesta Mall in San Roque Tuesday afternoon.

# FirstNet freed from insurance obligation

Consistent with the jury’s verdict, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has issued a judgment discharging FirstNet Insurance Co. from any obligation to the owner of a Garapan clothing store that was burned in 2010.

In her order issued Wednesday, Manglona also ruled in favor of FirstNet in Zhen Rui Brother Corp.’s counterclaim against FirstNet for breach of contract.

Zhen Rui Brother Corp. is the owner of BL Clothing Store that was engulfed by fire on Oct. 30, 2010.

Manglona said the court awards costs other than attorney’s fees to FirstNet as the prevailing party in the case.

Any claim for attorney’s fees, the judge said, must be made by a motion.

A jury had found that on Oct. 30, 2010, either Zhen Rui Brother Corp. intentionally caused the fire at BL

Clothing Store or someone with the permission of the corporation intentionally caused the blaze.

The jury also found that Zhen Rui Brother Corp. intentionally and materially overstated to FirstNet the actual cash value of its loss in the fire.

Attorney Richard W. Pierce is counsel for FirstNet. Attorneys Ramon Quichocho and Michael Dotts are counsels for Zhen Rui Brother Corp. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

on Jan. 6, 2009, the council should have been formed three months from the date of the proclamation.

The marine monument plan proved controversial in the CNMI, with opponents saying it will lead to restrictions on fishing and other activities in the area, while proponents said it will protect the area and result in economic benefits.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) said earlier that the federal government has been “missing timelines” on the marine monument.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration sought public comments on the preparation of a marine monument management plan. But Benigno Sablan said it’s not clear whether federal officials will present the public comments received in their upcoming visit.

The marine monument spans over 480 miles and incorporates approximately 95,216 square miles within three units in the Mariana Archipelago and contains some of the nation’s most unique and pristine marine environments.

Palacios, a former House speaker, is the Division of Fish and Wildlife director, and his appointment as DLNR secretary has yet to be approved by the CNMI Senate.

“I stipulated that there will be no inaugural meeting until Arnold Palacios is appointed council member. It’s taking this long for them to appoint a member,” Sablan said.

He said there are two groups of federal officials visiting the CNMI—the members of the advisory council and another team that will visit Saipan, Tinian, and Rota primarily for the proposed regulations on the marine monument.

“Three years since the designation, and we haven’t seen any economic benefit. We don’t have a formal council meeting, we don’t have a management plan, we don’t have regulations. Those who were strongly pushing for it years back talked about \$333 million in economic benefits, and 8,000 additional tourists visiting the CNMI once the marine monument is established. Where is that now? Why is everybody quiet now?” asked Sablan.

Under the presidential proclamation that established the marine monument

## SENATE

From Page 2

a national park on the island to protect the remaining remnants of our cultural heritage and native wildlife. With this in mind, the Rota Legislative Delegation and people of Rota appreciate your taking the time to consider this important matter and kindly ask your support and passage of H.R. 1141, which would help us

realize one of the largest National Park units in America’s westernmost frontier in the Northwestern Pacific,” Santos added.

On March 15, 2011, the CNMI Senate president wrote a letter supporting the bill when Sablan introduced it.

A 2005 Department of the Interior field survey found that the Monchon Latte Stone Village, the Chugai Pictograph Cave, and other ancient sites on Rota have national significance and should be protected.

## REWARD

From Page 1

the community and so one of our clients wants to add on an extra \$5,000 and wants to remain anonymous,” Dotts told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview.

Dotts added that any claims for this reward should be directed to him.

Another company, AC Pacific, LLC, which does business as Star Sands Plaza, also offered a \$5,000 reward not just for the arrest and conviction of those responsible for Romero’s death but also for that of the 25-year-old Asian woman who was beaten and raped at knifepoint last Jan. 29.

“We call on other CNMI businesses and community leaders to join with us in prompting witnesses to share any relevant information that they may have,” AC Pacific, LLC said in a statement.

The latest cash offerings bring to \$22,000 the reward money for any tips

or information that will lead to the arrest and conviction of Romero’s killer.

Last Wednesday, Bridge Capital, LLC and Pacific Amusement Inc. and Pacific Amusement Inc. each offered \$5,000 reward on top of the \$1,000 that Crime Stoppers will provide for any information leading to an arrest.

The next day, 3S Saipan Security Service and Saipan City Taxi Association offered another \$1,000 reward.

Romero, 37, a Godfather’s bartender, was reportedly last seen about 3am on Sunday boarding a green or blue tinted sedan in the parking lot of Call-A-Ride Saipan in front of Musung Building on Chichirica Avenue corner Kadena Di Amor St. in Garapan.

Family and friends are mourning Romero’s death by praying the rosary at the Kristo Rai Church, the Commonwealth Health Center Chapel, and Romero’s residence in Garapan.

Anyone with information may call Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 or visit their website at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com).

## CNMI

From Page 1

CNMI on the week of Feb. 20 but that visit is not even for an inaugural advisory council meeting.

“It’s just a getting-to-know-each-other meeting,” Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Only four of five council members have so far been appointed.

Of the three that’s supposed to be from the CNMI, only two have been appointed: Sablan and Dr. John Joyner, the governor’s senior policy adviser.

Joyner separately said that federal officials will be meeting with local officials regarding the marine monument.

“We’ve never had an advisory council meeting,” said Joyner, adding that the federal government made a thorough background check on appointees to the council.

Sablan said the U.S. departments of the Interior and Commerce have yet to appoint the third individual that Gov. Benigno Fitial recommended—acting Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Arnold Palacios.



# USCIS expands E-Verify Self Check to the CNMI

» Online tool now available throughout the United States

ORLANDO, Fla.—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced yesterday that Self Check, a free online service of E-Verify that allows workers to check their own employment eligibility status, is now available in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Launched in March 2011 by Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and USCIS Director Alejandro Mayorkas, yesterday's announcement delivers on the goal of expanding Self Check nationally within one year.

"We are pleased to complete, ahead of schedule, our expansion of this important tool for employees," said Mayorkas during a press conference at the agency's field office in Orlando, Fla. "Since our ini-

tial launch in March, approximately 67,000 people have used Self Check and we anticipate that participation will dramatically increase with service now available to individuals across the country."

Self Check was developed through a partnership between the Department of Homeland Security and the Social Security Administration to provide individuals a tool to check their own employment eligibility status, as well as guidance on how to correct their DHS and SSA records. It is the first online E-Verify service offered directly to workers. Available in English and Spanish, Self Check enables individuals to enter the same information into Self Check that employers enter into E-Verify.

Since the program's inception, thousands of individuals have used Self Check, available

in English and Spanish, to access their federal employment eligibility records and for guidance on how to correct potential record discrepancies prior to the hiring process.

In August 2011, Self Check became a bilingual service available to users in both English and Spanish, broadening the scope of the program to members of our U.S. workforce who are more comfortable reading Spanish-language materials.

For more information on Self Check, visit [www.uscis.gov/selfcheck](http://www.uscis.gov/selfcheck). For more information on USCIS and its programs, visit [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov). (USCIS)

## ON THE NET

<http://www.uscis.gov/selfcheck>

## A. Samoa firm cited after worker's death

HONOLULU—The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited Pacific Stevedoring Services, a long-shoring company based in Pago Pago, American Samoa, with five safety violations following the death of a worker at the StarKist wharf in Atu'u, American Samoa.

OSHA began an investigation Aug. 8 after an employee was struck in the head by the boom of a crane, being used to unload fish, onboard the Pacific Princess tuna fishing vessel. OSHA's investigation determined that the crane's hydraulic cylinder failed when the load exceeded the crane's capacity, and that communication between the signalman and crane operator was ineffective.

One willful violation with a \$42,000 penalty was cited for failing to ensure the shipboard crane's working load was not exceeded. A willful violation is one committed with intentional knowing or voluntary disregard for the law's requirements, or with plain indifference to worker safety and health.

Three serious violations with \$9,100 in penalties include failing to provide personal protective equipment such as hard hats and safety shoes, ensure that the signal person used conventional crane signals to communicate with the vessel's crane operator and provide accident prevention training to the foreman. A serious violation occurs when there is substantial probability that death or serious physical harm could result from a hazard about which the employer knew or should have known.

An other-than-serious violation with no monetary penalty was cited for failing to record workplace injuries and illnesses as required. An other-than-serious violation is one that has a direct relationship to job safety and health, but probably would not cause death or serious physical harm.

"Ensuring that a crane operates within safe working limits is a basic requirement of OSHA's safety standards. A family has lost a loved one because these standards were ignored," said Galen Lemke, director of OSHA's Honolulu Area Office in Hawaii.

Proposed penalties total \$51,100. The employer has 15 business days from receipt of the citations and proposed penalties to comply, meet with OSHA's area director or contest the findings to the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

To ask questions, obtain compliance assistance, file a complaint, or report workplace hospitalizations, fatalities or situations posing imminent danger to workers, the public should call OSHA's toll-free hotline at 800-321-OSHA (6742) or the agency's Honolulu office at 808-541-2680. For employers in American Samoa, OSHA has arranged for its publications and other materials to be available at American Samoa Community College, which can be obtained by contacting Sal Poloai, dean of the college's Trades and Technology Division, by telephone at 684-699-9155, ext. 325 or 353, or by mail to P.O. Box 2609, Mapusaga, American Samoa 96799. (USDOL)

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Onion	Potato	Nongshin Bowl Noodle	Spam All Kinds	Black Label Luncheon	Delmonte Whole Corn	Campbell's Chicken Noodle	Libby's Vienna Sausage	Master A1 Tuna	Kool-Aid Jammers	Sunkist	
69¢ LB.	79¢ LB.	\$7 <sup>99</sup> CASE	\$2 <sup>39</sup> EA.	\$1 <sup>79</sup> EA.	99¢ 15 OZ.	89¢ 10 OZ.	69¢ 5 OZ.	\$1 <sup>39</sup> 7 OZ.	\$2 <sup>99</sup> BOX	\$6 <sup>99</sup> CASE	
Cabbage	Korean Pear	Beach Cliff Sardines	Ox & Palm Corned Beef	Hormel Mary Kitchen Corned Beef Hash	Hormel Chili with Beans	Hormel Chili No Beans	Dinty Moore Beef Stew	Dinty Moore Meatball Stew	Pepsi Can	Coca Cola Can	
89¢ LB.	\$2 <sup>99</sup> LB.	99¢	\$2 <sup>99</sup> 11.5 OZ.	\$1 <sup>99</sup>	\$1 <sup>69</sup> 15 OZ.	\$1 <sup>79</sup> 15 OZ.	\$1 <sup>69</sup> 15 OZ.	\$1 <sup>69</sup> 15 OZ.	\$14 <sup>99</sup> CASE	\$13 <sup>99</sup> CASE	
Broccoli	Celo Apple	General Mills Big Pack Cereal	Kellogg's Frosted Flakes	Kikkoman Soy Sauce	Real Lemon Juice	White Sugar 2kg	Argo Corn Starch	Gold Medal Flour	Bud Light Can	Budweiser Can	
\$1 <sup>49</sup> LB.	\$3 <sup>49</sup> /BAG	\$7 <sup>99</sup>	\$3 <sup>79</sup> 12 OZ.	\$3 <sup>99</sup> 1.6 L.	\$3 <sup>39</sup> 32 OZ.	\$2 <sup>79</sup> 2 KG.	99¢ 11 LB.	\$3 <sup>49</sup> 5 LB.	\$28 <sup>50</sup> CASE	\$28 <sup>50</sup> CASE	
Orange	Honeydew/Cantaloupe	Real Fresh Milk 32oz	Foremost Milk	Tang Orange	Kool-Aid	Maxwell Coffee Mix	Ox & Palm Cooked Ham	Vlasic Sliced Dill Pickle	Bud Light Can	Budweiser Can	
99¢ LB.	99¢ LB.	\$21 <sup>50</sup> CASE	\$20 <sup>49</sup> CASE	\$8 <sup>99</sup> 22 OZ.	\$8 <sup>99</sup> 34 OZ.	\$7 <sup>99</sup> 100CT.	\$1 <sup>69</sup> 12 OZ. \$3 <sup>49</sup> 16 OZ.	\$5 <sup>99</sup> 1 GAL.	\$28 <sup>50</sup> CASE	\$28 <sup>50</sup> CASE	
Garlic	U.S. X-Large Eggs	Whole Chicken Can	Kellogg's Corn Pops	Kellogg's Apple Jacks	Dragon Vegetable Oil	DelMonte Ketchup	HappyTime Assorted Cookies	Golden State Vinegar	Hite Can	Hite Can	
\$1 <sup>25</sup> 5 PCS.	\$2 <sup>29</sup> 1 DOZ.	\$5 <sup>99</sup> 50 OZ.	\$3 <sup>99</sup> 12 OZ.	\$3 <sup>99</sup> 12 OZ.	\$9 <sup>49</sup> 1 GAL.	\$4 <sup>69</sup> 2.64 OZ.	\$6 <sup>49</sup>	\$3 <sup>99</sup> 2.1 GAL.	\$15 <sup>99</sup> CASE	\$15 <sup>99</sup> CASE	
FROZEN				NON-FOOD							
Bar S Jumbo Franks	Millers Sausage	Bar S Ham	Bar S Bacon	Ground Beef	Chamorro Sausage	Ground Pork	Vega Shrimps	Tilapia	Milk Fish	Green Shell Mussels	
\$1 <sup>09</sup>	\$16 <sup>99</sup>	\$18 <sup>99</sup> 10 LB.	\$3 <sup>29</sup>	\$10 <sup>49</sup> 5 LB.	\$4 <sup>49</sup> 10 LB.	\$22 <sup>49</sup> 10 LB.	\$5 <sup>79</sup> /LB.	99¢ /LB.	\$1 <sup>49</sup> /LB.	\$5 <sup>69</sup> 2 LB.	
Clorox Regular	Purex	Gain Liquid	Gain Powder 120 loads	Joy Ultra	Huggies Big	Luvs Big	Head & Shoulders	Foam Plates	Diamond Aluminum Foil		
\$3 <sup>49</sup> 92 OZ.	\$4 <sup>49</sup> 50 OZ.	\$6 <sup>49</sup> 50 OZ.	\$16 <sup>99</sup> 50 OZ.	\$1 <sup>49</sup> 12.5 OZ. \$6 <sup>99</sup> 90 OZ.	\$18 <sup>99</sup> BOX	\$17 <sup>49</sup> BOX	\$5 <sup>75</sup> EA. 14 OZ.	\$3 <sup>29</sup> 50 CT. \$7 <sup>99</sup> 125 CT.	\$6 <sup>99</sup> 200 SQ. FT.		

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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR  
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

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### EDITORIAL

## So you want to be an astronaut?

"...The idea here...seemed to be that a man should have the ability to go up in a hurtling piece of machinery and put his hide on the line and then have the moxie, the reflexes, the experience, the coolness, to pull it back in the last yawning moment—and then go up again the next day, and the next day, and every next day, even if the series should prove infinite—and, ultimately, in its best expression, do so in a cause that means something to thousands, to a people, a nation, to humanity, to God."—Tom Wolfe, "The Right Stuff"

Who could forget Tom Wolfe's heady description of the moxie required to strap yourself into a tiny capsule perched atop a powerful rocket and, fingers crossed, venture into cold, unforgiving space?

Wolfe minted that wondrous phrase in the late 1970s, around the time NASA was deluged with a record number of astronaut applicants.

Today, the remaining American space shuttles trundle off to museums. Space-bound American astronauts must hitch a ride with the Russians to the International Space Station where they...conduct science experiments and fix the toilet.

You might expect that NASA wouldn't find many takers for a less-than-dazzling mission. But the space agency recently announced that it reaped a near record number of applications for a handful of openings in the Astronaut Office: 6,372 candidates for nine to 15 jobs. Despite the fact that NASA probably won't launch any deep-space missions until the beginning of the next decade, if then.

Why are astronaut applications soaring?

Probably isn't the salary. Astronauts earn \$64,724 to \$141,715 a year.

Nor the fame. Who can name an astronaut from the last 20 years?

High unemployment here on terra firma? Maybe. But where's the job security with a federal budget in free fall and NASA always a ripe target for cuts?

Nevertheless, we admire those 6,372 brave souls seeking one of the most dangerous jobs ever created.

Today's candidates need more than a full ration of courage and resourcefulness under pressure. An advanced degree in math or science helps. You'll need to swim three pool lengths in a flight suit, with tennis shoes. If you don't know Russian, plan to learn it.

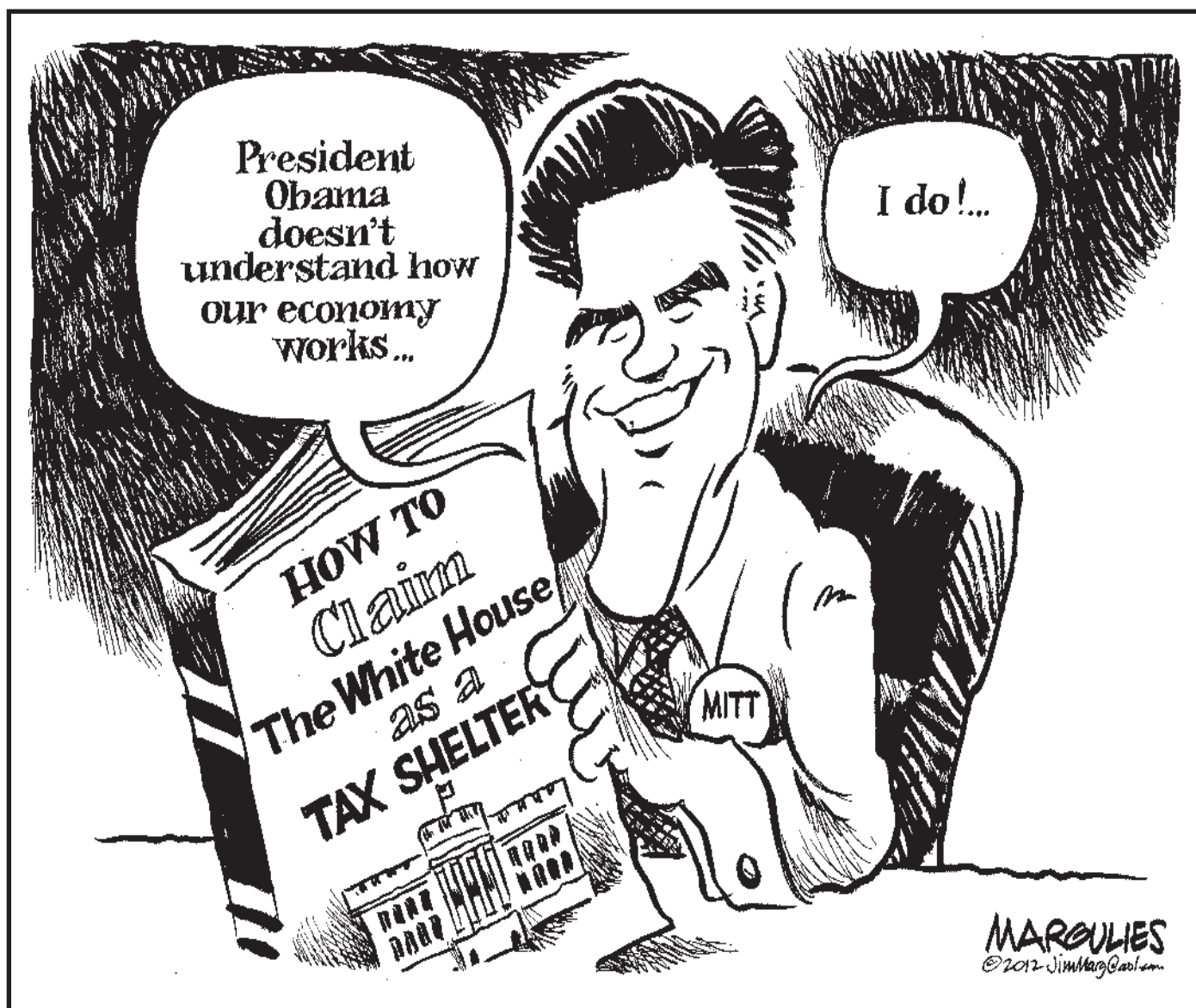
Those 6,372 people are willing to bet that the American quest to explore space can't be shackled by budget woes forever. That this is merely an interlude in the mission. That they won't be doomed to have the right stuff... at the wrong time.

That's a good bet. But will space exploration resume before this generation of astronauts, this chosen few, lose their edge?

Americans remember the boldness of the Gemini astronauts who pushed the envelope. The spirit that propelled Neil Armstrong & Co. to the Sea of Tranquility on July 20, 1969. The courage of shuttle astronauts who followed the Challenger and Columbia disasters.

This new crop of astronauts may—or may not—get a chance to explore near-Earth asteroids. They can dream about planting the flag on the moon or maybe even Mars. But to thrive as astronauts, they'll need another trait, just as important as the right stuff: patience.

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## How far the US, and democracy, has fallen in Egypt

By TRUDY RUBIN

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at [trubin@phillynews.com](mailto:trubin@phillynews.com).



Nothing better illustrates America's sliding status in today's Arab world than Egypt's decision to try 16 Americans who work for pro-democracy groups there.

On the surface, the strange story of this "criminal" case looks far less important than the Syrian government's repression of its people. But this crisis has the potential to wreck U.S. relations with Egypt, a country that is still considered a key ally. And these charges graphically illustrate the decline of U.S. leverage in the new Middle East.

Here are the facts: On Monday, Egypt's military-led government brought charges against the Americans and 24 others—including 14 Egyptians, other Arabs, Germans, and Serbs. Their crime: They worked in Cairo for American and local organizations that promote democracy and receive U.S. funding.

Most of the Americans are no longer in the country. Three—including Sam LaHood, son of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood—have taken refuge in the U.S. Embassy in Cairo.

However, this case involves far more than the fate of a few Americans. It demonstrates the Egyptian military's fear of democracy at home. And it forecasts the rocky road ahead for the Egyptian relationship with the United States.

Two of the four U.S. organizations whose employees were charged were the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and the International Republican Institute (IRI). They are affiliated with the Democratic and Republican Parties, and receive congressional funding to teach the nuts and bolts of political campaigns to Egyptians from any party; this includes training on how to monitor elections and teach voter awareness. Yet these groups were accused of illegally using foreign funds to foment unrest.

The draconian law under which they were charged dates back to the Mubarak era, and requires all nongovernmental organizations to register with the government. But the law made such registration virtually impossible. So, gutsy Egyptian organizations such as the Arab Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and Legal Profession had to operate in the shadows. (This is one of the local groups just charged—by a judiciary still under the military's thumb.)

Once the Tahrir Square revolution toppled the regime of Hosni Mubarak, Egyptian activists expected this law to be rescinded. So did the NDI and the IRI, which kept the Egyptian government informed of all their activities; they were even accredited by the Egyptian government to send delegations to observe parliamentary elections last year.

However, the law was not repealed. Nor did it become easier for local pro-democracy NGOs to raise funds in Egypt. Liberal businessmen who might have been expected to fund such groups after

the revolution were still too afraid.

And now—confronted with ongoing demonstrations—Egypt's powerful generals have convinced themselves that the unrest is being organized and funded by a "foreign hand."

"What the military is doing is exactly a continuation of what Mubarak did," says the Carnegie Endowment's Egypt expert, Marina Ottaway. "The military is not a democratic institution. Egypt has never allowed NGOs to function."

The NGO issue, while important, didn't have to become the game-changer in U.S.-Egyptian relations. However, by choosing to blame America for funding unrest, the generals have ruled out business as usual. The chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs, Gen. Martin Dempsey, is traveling to Egypt to meet the generals. Many in Congress are demanding a cut in the annual \$1.3 billion in military aid to Egypt, along with \$250 million in economic aid.

What's astonishing is that the generals seem so unconcerned about provoking Washington, even though Egypt's economy is in the tank and it needs U.S. support to get international loans.

No doubt Egypt's military feels "entitled" to U.S. aid, which it regards as payment for its adherence to the peace treaty with Israel. It knows U.S. officials want Egypt to maintain that treaty, and see its military as a bulwark against Islamists who won Egyptian elections.

The \$1.3 billion in aid looks like the only leverage that Washington still retains in Cairo. Says Ottaway, "If we cut off aid we are cutting off our nose to spite our face."

Yet events in Egypt remind us our leverage is waning, as Egypt's military looks to play the nationalist card and please its public. A recent Gallup poll showed 71 percent of Egyptians oppose U.S. economic aid, and 74 percent oppose direct U.S. aid to civil-society groups. Egypt's Islamists oppose that aid, too.

I hope, for Egypt's sake, that behind-the-scenes talks persuade its generals to back off these political trials, let the Americans leave, and focus on the country's real problems. If they persist—it makes one wonder how much influence America retains in Cairo, and what our aid still buys us. And that is a very sobering thought.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Mahalo Blue Hawaii

We left China a month ago almost to the day and arrived in Honolulu three hours before we commenced travel. That's sci-fi time travel so far in this century. We came for what we thought was a week's visit, to see 91-year-old Mom and rub elbows with *la familia*.

An SF colleague who had a task to fulfill on the Big Island came over so we had the chance to sidestep firecrackers pop in Chinatown to usher the Year of the Dragon, and watch the Rainbow coalition parade down Waikiki on MLK Day. We also did the 44-x-30-mile island drive around Oahu, slightly bigger than Saipan's 12 x 5-mile size, skipping the northeast geo-sixth due to time constraint and the challenge of traffic. The views afforded by the Punch Bowl, the Tantalus drive to the Top of the Hill forest park, and Pali highway added data to our 40-some year memories of coming-and-going this "gathering place" in the Hawaiian chain of islands.

Pearl Harbor has become a known historical location that occasioned FDR's oft-repeated Dec. 7, 1941-designated phrase, "A day that will live in infamy." America's military might float's the island's economy, maintaining an *aloha* visitors' industry, and a laid-back hang-loose *ohana* culture. CSG-9 navigates with the U.S. Pacific Fleet homeported at Pearl Harbor. Oahu is Uncle Sam's babe draped with *ilima* lei down her Polyglot bosom, and a *pua aloalo* (yellow hibiscus) in her hair while varied skin-hued Don Ho and Kalakaua *kane* consorts occasionally *na kamalei* the hula, don the bird headdress, or body surf the tame Waikiki waves.

Some less charitable wit has compared the island to a federal sheepdog, cuddly and comforting but has gotten too fat with entitlements and dole. That is not quite fair, having briefly labored with WorkHawaii's workforce development in the late '90s, though we might quietly add that since Barack Obama claims Hawaii as his home state, the Democrats have been having a field day; the internecine bashing done without apologies, while the unity is assumed under the rainbow.

Other than the oddity of Lady Lingle in the mix, the islands are mistakenly thought and considered to be ruled by a single party system, with the political roulette, now that Inouye and Akaka are bowing to age, consigned to a limited membership of the Case and Hirono, Cayetano and Abercrombie, Hanabusa, Mufi and Schatz, et al.

It does not matter. Blue Hawaii is America's showcase for paradise.

A brother lives in Kapolei, Oahu's second city that has encroached into Ewa Beach where youngest sister also settled 20 years ago into one of the Gentry-in-Ewa neighborhoods that transformed this former abutment to NAS's Barbers' Point and the railed Campbell sugar plantation into a polyglot of middle class dreams and glocal aspirations. Kapolei is shaping up as both a governmental and commercial center, with the added Ko'olina development resort rivaling any seashore comfort and convenience offered anywhere in the world.

My brother-in-law recalls that this is the third time I am making my "last" appearance in the land of the pacific palms. True. Been bidding my "goodbye" since Dad laid his head on peaceful Mililani in 2007. But Mom still rests her head in downtown Aala, thus this hurriedly packed sojourn.

But it is true that Blue Hawaii has become more an item of memory rather than a destination of future treks. We've left our heart in San Francisco, and swooned with the chairman of the board, *New York, New York*, but Elvis' croon of

*Come with me  
While the moon is on the sea  
The night is young  
And so are we, so are we  
Dreams come true  
In blue Hawaii  
And mine could all come true  
This magic night of nights with you*

## Letter to the Editor

### Forces of change

In his state of the union address our President made a prophetic statement that the CNMI should take note of when he said, "The forces of change cannot be reversed." But more important about his address was how our President held everyone, including his office, accountable.

One of the biggest inhibitors to social and economic prosperity is lack of social leadership in the CNMI. The bishop can't be that social leader because of the separation between church and state and there are no local activists promoting the American dream for everyone in the CNMI, only activists promoting local domination. There has never been a social leader to unite the people and lead them through these changing times. But it has become apparent to me that the CNMI has somehow created a social and political leader in the governor, which is why there is no real check by the people on our government when it comes to the social well-being of all people. I have often used the term "one people, one direction" and I truly believe that some, if not many, still don't get it. The CNMI needs to move forward and that means change, as you can't find prosperity looking backwards. All the people in the CNMI need to be united now (locals and mainlanders) more than ever as times are more challenging now than they have been since the end of WWII.

The CNMI society is composed of about 21 percent Chamorros, 6 percent Carolinians, and 73 percent who are not local. The American federal system, which the CNMI is part of, is based on the principle of the majority rule as "the needs of the many will always outweigh the needs of a few." There is also the fact that you can *never* please everyone and the majority is the best we can do as humans. But as you can see from the numbers, the CNMI has been trying to develop an environment that is totally adverse to the expectations of living under our federal system, which is why I was not surprised to see everything falling apart, just as I predicted years in advance. Making laws that clearly discriminate against the majority and promotes the minority by establishing a double-standard of living in the CNMI is wrong and now we are suffering the consequences of these poor decisions!

The CNMI government has never truly dedicated itself to work-

ing for all the people in the CNMI and now we are starting to see the results of these failures. For those who can't relate, I will refresh your memory: Every economic issue is a local issue and locals (27 percent) have ruled but everyone else ends up suffering. The pozzalon was a local issue and the concerns were only for the locals that didn't want to let the "days that have gone by" to go. China wanted to purchase the pozzalon for their construction of the Olympic venues but the locals chased the investor(s) away. They didn't stop to think that the sale of pozzalon was great new way of expanding the very foundation of our economy with a new industry that would have surely grown from the exposure of pozzalon's usage in the Olympic venues. They couldn't see into the future to know that pozzalon was a real alternative to the doubling of government fees and licensing that we are now experiencing. They didn't realize the Northern Islands are the future and even part of our salvation for the present day. No, they *only* thought about themselves and their memories. But we still have all that pozzalon with no plans to use it and we are all now paying for it with all these increased fees.

The fiasco with the Sugar Dock investor who wanted to fix up the dock for a ferry to carry people and cars to Tinian is another example of minority rule over the majority. It took only a handful of local people to stop an investment that would have helped *everyone* in the CNMI and now look at Sugar Dock. They didn't stop to think how badly the CNMI needed to develop a complete interisland transportation system and now we are right back where the CNMI started, with only air and shipping service to Tinian. They didn't stop to think about the revenues for the government from the ferry operation and the jobs for locals. They didn't stop to think about how the ferry could lower the cost of living for all the people on Tinian while increasing commerce on Saipan. I could go on and on but the point has been made that a handful of local people who didn't want to change have contributed to the downfall of the CNMI's economy.

But the biggest and most influential epic center against change has clearly been Article 12. No one can deny that this law discriminates in favor of the minority. No one can deny that this law has placed a stranglehold on the very economic engine of the CNMI in hopes of elevating the minority. But this law has failed miserably as locals are leaving 100 times faster than they are building homes. This law clearly promotes social superiority through a double standard for living. This law is the biggest inhibitor to fulfilling the American dream of prosperity for all as the housing industry is a primary part

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergara2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.*



tugged on our heart string when the pink elephant was still the tallest structure on Kalakaua Avenue in '62, way past our bedtime nocturne.

We leave a family *sans* Dad, close knit on the outside but remarkable in sad dysfunction on the inside, a quality of our time of shedding layers of illusions and delusions more than the product of bipolar personalities, though all of that is kept in the stew. But as a sibling grandiosely declared in his unconditional acceptance of our idiosyncrasy: "We still love you." That, me, and Blue Hawaii!

So it is "aloha" once more, and mayhap, finally, as KE takes us to the Korean peninsula and on to the Middle Kingdom of Manchu and Lisu, Hani and Nakhi, Mongol and Uighur, Han and Gaoshan, Chosen and Hezhen, Miao and Yao, Dai and Bai, Zang and Zhuang, Yi and Li, Hui and Sui, and as my beachcombers would say, all 56 *kine*!

We are going Red in the Year of the Dragon to traverse the geography of Xizang to Dong Bei, Yunnan to Zhejiang, and all points in between the next four years. As the adventure continues, our investment on the venture requires full consciousness and total attention, not to mention disciplined deployment of meager resources.

"Go west, old man," is our mantra. As a *Zhongguoren* once said: "We do not discover destiny. We create it, even as we construct the highway while we travel." That, we will do. *Aloha, Mahalo Blue Hawaii!*

of the foundation for a fully developed economy. The CNMI has a developing economy with only one industry, which dictates that the CNMI must change and grow if we are to find prosperity. You can't grow an economy by trying to keep it all for locals—it just doesn't work that way. I have said it on several occasions in my letters that "he who tries to hog it all for himself will have nothing in the end and that we [all American citizens] will all find prosperity together in the CNMI or the locals won't find it at all."

There was a letter that said only 1 percent of the locals are speaking out and doing something to preserve the local domination over land—well they don't need to speak out when the law has already done it for them. It was interesting the 99 percent of locals who the author claimed are for keeping Article 12 doesn't represent the majority in the CNMI. It is these types of outburst that really signal how horrible it is in the CNMI when 27 percent can dictate to the other 73 percent. Instead of promoting the need for a four-year university and local economists, scientist, engineers, astronauts, doctors, educators, politicians, doctors, Olympians, astronauts and other professionals, a handful of locals are putting all their efforts into holding up the wall of social imperialism that is standing on Article 12, holding everyone back from prosperity. It's sad and a waste!

I truly understand and even have compassion for the people who wanted to save Sugar Dock and those who wanted to preserve the Northern Islands. We all have memories and connections with the past but they need to realize and accept the fact that change is an irreversible force. There is only two ways of dealing with change: you either confront it and use it to your advantage or you can confront it with the intent of stopping it and get run over like the feds just did on wages and alien workers. The opponents of change need to stop fighting change and start using change or everyone will suffer and pay the cost for fighting a force that cannot be stopped. The CNMI failed to change with the times and now we are paying for it by suffering. So I ask the handful of local holdouts (not all locals) to change and to seriously consider adopting the attribute of civic virtue and putting the entire CNMI and every citizen first in your future decisions. You can't stop change as you may have thought in the past with the pozzalon, Sugar Dock and landownership, as we still need to change in the CNMI or we will all continue to suffer like fools refusing to change.






**Ambrose M. Bennett**  
*Kagman, Saipan*



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 85° ▼ 76°	▲ 85° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 76
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 79

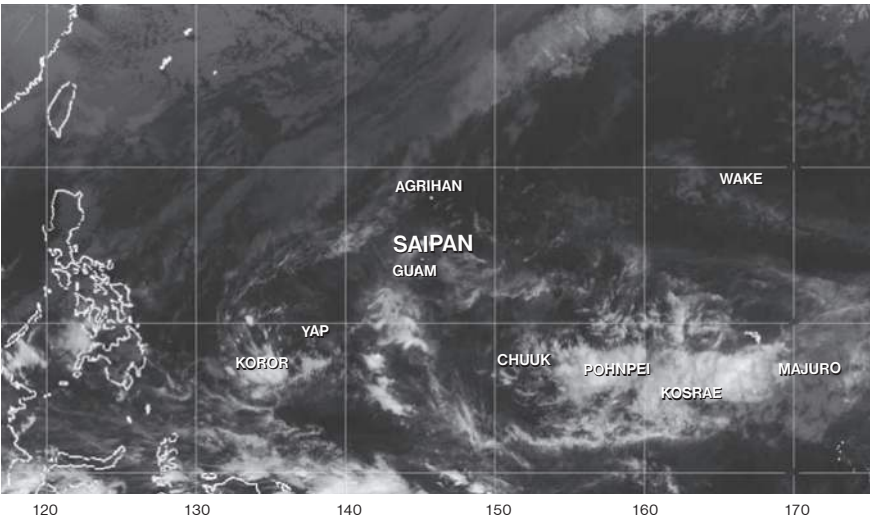
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲ 71 ▼ 60
Beijing	Cloudy	▲ 40 ▼ 21
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 66 ▼ 62
Honolulu	Sunny	▲ 80 ▼ 71
London	Sunny	▲ 36 ▼ 25
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 62 ▼ 45
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 81 ▼ 74
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 73 ▼ 58
Miami	Showers	▲ 77 ▼ 54
New York	Ice	▲ 41 ▼ 22
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 46 ▼ 35
Paris	Sunny	▲ 32 ▼ 17
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 44 ▼ 30
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲ 42 ▼ 29
Salem	Showers	▲ 50 ▼ 32
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲ 57 ▼ 46
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 38 ▼ 23
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 49 ▼ 31
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 44 ▼ 25

### Tides

Saipan Harbor				
3:52 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet	
10:07 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet	
4:32 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet	
10:13 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



#### PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from east of Minami Tori Shima at 25N156E to 17N140E then continues as a shear line to end near 12N131E. Low-level cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 250 miles northwest of this boundary. A surface trough extends southeastward from a weak circulation centered just east of Koror at 7N135E to end at EQ142E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring primarily west of Koror within 80 miles of a line from 12N132E to 9N131E to 6N132E. Converging low-level winds east of the circulation are producing scattered showers east of Yap within 50 miles of a line from 13N138E to 7N142E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Chuuk within 150 miles of a line from 8N145E to 1N156E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers over Pohnpei and Kosrae between 9N and 3N from 155E to 164E. Scattered showers are also found over Kwajalein between 11N and 6N from 164E to 171E.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:44 AM	6:19 PM
Sunday	6:43 AM	6:19 PM
Monday	6:43 AM	6:20 PM
Tuesday	6:42 AM	6:20 PM
Wednesday	6:42 AM	6:20 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:30 PM	8:48 AM
Sunday	10:28 PM	9:34 AM
Monday	11:28 PM	10:22 AM
Tuesday		11:13 AM
Wednesday	12:29 AM	12:07 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

#### PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

#### CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

#### REQUIREMENTS

##### For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

##### For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

#### HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com) or [jayvee\\_vallejera@saipantribune.com](mailto:jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com).
  - Fax: (670) 235-3740
  - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
  - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

#### POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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**ADVERTISING** For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: [sales@saipantribune.com](mailto:sales@saipantribune.com)

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)</b> C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5	<b>ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)</b> C05064 5:15am 5:45am 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)</b> C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5	<b>ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)</b> C05062 3:10am 3:45am 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b> C05064 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6 C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6	<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b> C05062 2:10am 3:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05071 7:00am 7:50am Daily C05073 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05075 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:30pm 6:20pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:40pm 6:30pm 3, 6 C05079 8:35pm 9:25pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05079 8:45pm 9:35pm 3, 6
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b> DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:15pm Daily	<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b> DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:20am+1 2, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)</b> OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	<b>OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN</b> OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b> OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b> OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b> OZ608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7 DL581 4:10am 7:30am 1, 5	<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b> OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 6 DL580 10:10pm 2:55am+1 4, 7
<b>SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)</b> 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	<b>GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b> 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b> OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05070/191 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT C05068/183 8:25am 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05068/183 8:25am 9:40pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 4, 7 via GUM C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN C05072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM C05072/PR111 10:05pm 7:50am+1 3, 6 via GUM	<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b> DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT C0190/5077 10:55am 6:30pm 3, 6 via GUM C0190/5079 10:55am 9:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C05071 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0192/5071 10:25pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C0184/5071 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ704/603 11:40pm 2:20pm Daily via ICN C0184/5071 11:59pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM
<b>SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)</b> OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05076/147 3:10pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:30pm Daily via ICN OZ604/749 3:20pm 10:50pm Daily via ICN	<b>HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN</b> OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ750/603 1:00am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0180/5071 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana	
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>							
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily	<b>Tinian-Saipan</b>			
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES			
<b>CATHOLIC</b> 			
<b>Mt. Carmel Cathedral</b> Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro Parish office hours: Monday-Saturday 8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm			
<b>Korean Center</b> Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm			
<b>Kristo Rai Parish</b> Sunday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm) Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated) Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm. Telephone no. 285-0273			
<b>Santa Soledad Mission Parish</b> Monday: 6pm Tuesday: 6pm Wednesday: 6pm Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass) Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass) Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am, Saturday: 4-6pm Telephone no. 256-4568			
<b>Saint Jude Parish</b> Monday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 7am Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm Office is close every Thursday and Saturday Telephone no. 288-0007			
<b>San Antonio Parish</b> Monday-Friday 6pm Saturday: 6pm Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children) Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm Close on Sunday and Monday			
<b>San Francisco de Borja-Rota</b> Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro Wednesday:6pm English Thursday: 6am Chamorro Friday: 6am English Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog Sunday: anticipated mass			
<b>San Isidro-Rota</b> Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am Monday-Friday: 7pm Saturday: 5am and 7pm			
<b>San Jose (Oleai) Parish</b> Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm Thursday: day off Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm Telephone no. 234-6991			
<b>San Roque Parish</b> Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English Monday: 6pm English Tuesday: 6pm English Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil Thursday: 6pm English Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays) Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's			
Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143			
<b>San Vicente Parish</b> Monday-Friday: 6pm, Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month) Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm Parish office hours: daily 9-11am Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131			
<b>Santa Remedios</b> Sunday: 8am Monday: 6pm (1 <sup>st</sup> Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm) Tuesday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm			
<b>PROTESTANT</b> 			
<b>Amen Church</b> Sunday : 10am, 1pm, 5pm Wednesday : 7pm Friday Prayer : 9pm Bible Study : 4pm (Tue) Music Practice : 5pm (Sat) Korean class: 3:30pm (Thu) Visitation : 10am(Fri, Sat) Outreach : 8am (First Sat) Tel. No. 285-2121, 256-2221 Email : oseyo@daum.net			
<b>Born Again Christian</b> (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm			
<b>Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan</b> Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm Telephone no. 234-6026/27			
<b>Chinese Christian Church of Saipan</b> Worship Services: Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm Telephone no. 235-8540			
<b>Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan</b> Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm As Perdido Road Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950 Tel. No. (670) 235-8590 Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org			
<b>Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan</b> St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road, Call 285-6081 for directions			
<b>Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan</b> Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service) GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week) Telephone no. 322-5680			
<b>Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan</b> Wednesday: 7:45pm (English) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm			
(Tagalog) Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog) Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)			
<b>Immanuel United Methodist Church</b> Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral) Worship Service: 9:00am Children's Sunday School: 9:00am Choir Practice: 8:00am Singspiration: 8:30am Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158			
<b>Immanuel Methodist Church</b> (Filipino Congregation) Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog) 9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage) (Korean Congregation) Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm Wednesday evening service: 8pm Daily morning prayer: 5am			
<b>Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan</b> Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm, Wednesday: 7:30-9pm			
<b>Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan</b> Sunday School: 9:20am Sunday Adult: 11am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm			
<b>Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan</b> Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)			
<b>Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan</b> English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm			
<b>Missions Connection Ministry</b> Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm			
<b>Northern Marianas Christian Church</b> Sunday Worship Service: 10 am at Seventh Day Adventist church on Quartermaster Rd. Wednesday Service: 7 pm at Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 Contact Nick for more info: 287-1661			
<b>Marianas Bible Fellowship Center</b> Sunday School: 9-9:30am Divine Worship: 9:30-11am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm			
<b>Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)</b> Sunday worship 8:30am Sunday evening 7:00pm Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel Telephone: 789-7566			
<b>Saipan Christian Church</b> Sunday: 7:30am-10am			
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting) Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)			
<b>Saipan Church of Christ</b> Sunday Bible Class: 9am Sunday Worship: 10am Sunday Worship English: 10-11am Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm Thursday Bible Study: 7pm			
<b>Saipan Community Church</b> (Sunday Services) Palau Service: 7:30am-9am English Service: 10am-11:30am Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm			
<b>Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan</b> (Saturday Church Services) Sabbath School Program: 9-10am Lesson Study: 10-10:40am Divine Service: 11-12pm Visitation: 3-4pm Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm Sundown Worship: 6-7pm			
<b>First Baptist Church Koblerville</b> Sunday services: Sunday school 9:00am Morning worship 10:00am Evening service 6:00pm Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm			
Chinese services Sunday morning 10:00am Sunday evening 7:00pm			
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. Telephone No: 285-4661/2			
<b>Thy Word Ministries Saipan</b> Faith Center Phone 234-0209 New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi			
Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism			
<b>Upper Room International Ministries</b> Sunday 5:30am-6:30am Morning prayer 7am-9am English service 7am-9am Sunday school 10am-12noon English service, Koblerville Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church Gualo Rai, Saipan			
<b>Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church</b> Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship:10:30am Sunday PM Worship:7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S			
<b>Victorious Christian Church</b> (Formerly God's Victorious Army) Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246			

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

# Flashback

## A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

### Feb. 11, 1999

**Tenorio backs CPA pay cut, rules out bailout**  
Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday said the Commonwealth Ports Authority would have to solve its own financial troubles because the CNMI government and the Legislature will not be able to bail out the cash-strapped agency. According to Tenorio, he will support the planned 15 reduction in salaries of CPA employees for one or two years if it is the only way the ports authority can survive and avoid the massive retrenchment in the agency. The CNMI government has been having difficulty raising \$5 million to \$6 million to pay for salaries of more than 4,000 employees under government payroll.

**Hofschneider defends NMC probe**  
The ongoing oversight hearing of the House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare opens debate on whether the Northern Marianas College is on trial with its president, Agnes McPhetres, taking the heat. “It will be irresponsible for me as the head of the committee to use this for publicity. I don’t need that and this is a serious investigation,” said Rep. Heinz Hofschneider, the chairman of the committee. To prove his point, he said he would henceforth decline interviews about the oversight hearing. He said this would keep the integrity of the entire process.

### Feb. 11, 2000

**PSS asks \$40 million for FY 2001**  
Citing the need to fill up vacancies needed to efficiently run learning institutions in the CNMI, the Public School System is asking \$40 million in budget allocation for the fiscal year 2001. Members of the Seventh CNMI State Board of Education approved the budget proposal in its second meeting yesterday. The proposal will be submitted to the Office of the Governor. PSS was originally planning to ask for \$44 million for the next fiscal year but decided not to seek funding for 114 full-time employees positions that may have cost the System close to \$4 million, according to Education Commissioner Dr. Rita H. Inos.

**US asked to increase annual aid to \$100M**  
Retired Supreme Court Justice Ramon G. Villagomez yesterday asked Edward B. Cohen, President Clinton’s special representative to the 902 Consultations, to recommend an increase in the annual financial assistance to the Northern Marianas from \$11 million to \$100 million as well as the removal of the matching requirement. Saying the United States has received a lot of benefits when the CNMI signed the Covenant, Mr. Villagomez said Mr. Cohen should recommend to the President to stop the bombing exercises on Farallon de Mendinilla, return all leased lands and rescind the U.S. power of eminent domain. In his letter to Mr. Cohen, the former justice emphasized that the people of the CNMI gave up their sovereignty to the United States—complete control over a vast area of lands, sea and air which strengthens the U.S. strategic positioning in Asia and the Pacific.

### Feb. 11, 2002

**CUC bats for better power services**  
Reeling from a budget deficit, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. needs to cough up millions of dollars more for the major overhaul works being done at its main power plant on Saipan. The overhaul of just one engine would cost up to \$2 million or higher, according to CUC corporate communications special advisor Pamela Mathis. Saipan’s biggest power plant needs at least three of its engines overhauled. Two of those engines each supply 13 megawatts of electricity, while the third engine has 7.5 megawatts of power.

**Mobile X-ray zaps smuggled medicines**  
The CNMI Division of Customs intercepted last week an unspecified number of smuggled medicines and medical supplies—the first interception of the division using its newly-acquired X-ray mobile van. Customs Officer Anthony B. Blas said they intercepted the smuggled items—medicines, vials, syringes, intravenous lines, catheters, among others—last Tuesday during a random inspection of a container van that had just arrived from Hong Kong. “We were conducting a 100-percent inspection of two container vessels at the Saipan port. We just selected one container. About a fourth into the container, they brought some boxes in for the X-ray machine. My guys who were sitting inside monitoring the screen saw a suspicious object in one of the box. When it came through, they opened the box and found these items inside a bag under another bag of foodstuff,” Blas told reporters Friday.



# Maharlika

## Petition out to keep consulate open on Saipan

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Filipino community leaders in the CNMI have already started gathering signatures to petition the continued operation of the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan following the announcement that it will shut down in July.

Some 40 leaders attended the meeting organized by Consul General Medardo Macaraig on Wednesday during which he informed them about the decision of the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila to consolidate its foreign service posts in the Pacific.

The consolidation would transfer the responsibilities of the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan to that of Guam within the year, although the exact date of transfer will be announced later.

Bong Malasarte, president of the United Filipino Organization that is composed of some 30 *Pinoy* groups, said yesterday that they have already started collecting signatures for the petition, which will be circulated in the entire Commonwealth.

Malasarte said they will be disseminating the petition tomorrow during the *Pusong Pinoy* event in hopes of collecting thousands more signatures.



Malasarte

The same petition, he said, have already been sent to Filipino leaders on Tinian and Rota to reinforce the need to maintain a consulate in the CNMI for the 8,000 to 9,000 Filipinos who

may require consular services.

"We are calling on the entire Filipino community in the CNMI to support the petition by signing it," Malasarte told *Saipan Tribune*. "We need to let the Philippine government know that we

here in the Marianas need the services of the Consulate."

Malasarte emphasized the importance of the Philippine Consulate General's presence in the Commonwealth, saying that it does not only provide consular services such as passport renewals but it is also the government representative that helps all workers in need.

According to Malasarte, the savings that the government will get from its closure will not benefit the Filipino population in the CNMI and may even be pocketed by corrupt politicians.

"If the Filipino workers are indeed considered our country's modern-day

heroes, then the government must give us what we deserve by maintaining a consulate here," Malasarte said.

UNTV's Rudy Francisco, a former Movers officer who also attended Wednesday's meeting, agreed, saying it will be challenging for Filipinos in the CNMI to fly to Guam whenever they need the help of the Consulate.

"Closing down the consulate will be to the detriment of us Filipino workers," he said.

Malasarte urged all Filipino workers to come together and unite as one in this petition efforts that, if it proves successful, will benefit all and not just one.

### DESPITE CLOSURE ANNOUNCEMENT

## Business as usual at Philippine Consulate

### » To hold mobile consular services at *Pusong Pinoy* event

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

It's business as usual for the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan even after an announcement that it will close down and transfer its responsibilities to the Consulate in Guam this year.

Consul General Medardo Macaraig



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Consul General Medardo Macaraig holds a briefing confirming information that the Department of Foreign Affairs is closing down the Saipan consulate because of budgetary constraints.

on Thursday held a news briefing confirming information that the Department of Foreign Affairs is consolidating its foreign service posts in the Pacific because of budgetary constraints.

"The exact date of the transfer of responsibilities shall be announced later," added Macaraig.

Macaraig said the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan will continue to be on island for the Philippine Independence Day celebration in June and the Ambassadors, Consuls General, Tourism Directors Tour of the Philippines in July.

He said in a phone interview that their operations were normal and smooth sailing yesterday. He admitted, though, that they received a number of phone calls and walk-in inquiries as to

when exactly they will close down or what will happen after they do.

The Philippine Consulate General, which currently has some 12 staffers, began its services to the Filipino community on island on April 3, 1989, with then Consul Julius D. Torres.

Among the services it provides are passport renewals, issuance of consular IDs and overseas employment certificates, and the ongoing absentee voters registration for next year's election.

Moreover, the Philippine Consulate General will cease offering free livelihood training courses through the Philippine Overseas Labor Office and will no longer be able to sign up or renew memberships with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

Macaraig said the number of clients yesterday was manageable, with only one of their three e-Passport machines was used.

He said many clients complained about the difficulty of having the Philippine Consulate in Guam assuming jurisdiction over the CNMI, most notably the challenge of traveling to the Commonwealth's neighboring island.

Macaraig urged Filipinos in the CNMI to transact business with the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan at the earliest possible time to avoid inconveniences.

"Whatever the Consulate can do for you, do it right now before we transfer our responsibilities to our counterparts in Guam," he added.

Macaraig said they will hold mobile consular services at tomorrow's *Pusong Pinoy*, a whole-day event hosted by the United Filipino Organization at the Civic Center grounds in Susupe.

"The UFO always accommodates the Consulate and this time, they are gracious enough to allow us to have a booth so we can provide consular services to Filipinos attending the event," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Macaraig added that while they expect to shut down services to the Filipino community sometime in July or August, they will have to request to remain for longer than that to wrap up their administrative functions and prepare reports.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pusong Pinoy candidates give their best smiles during a photo shoot at the Marianas Business Plaza last Feb. 5.

## All set for Sunday's first ever *Pusong Pinoy* celebration

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

All is set for the United Filipino Organization's *Pusong Pinoy* and the group is inviting the whole community to take part in what they hope to be an annual Valentine's Day celebration.

The event is slated for tomorrow, Feb. 12, at the Civic Center grounds in Susupe.

UFO president Bong Malasarte expressed his appreciation to Docomo Pacific for sponsoring *Pusong Pinoy*, which will be open to couples, families, and even singles who want to mark the occasion with whole day of fun, games and activities, and a lot of exciting prizes.

"We want to thank them for their generosity in making this event possible," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Malasarte said that they will be constructing a stage and setting up the tents for all 16 food and non-food vendors today.

The participating food vendors are Shirley's Coffee Shop, La Mocha Restaurant, Plates En Boxes, Sandjuy Restaurant, Connie's Diner, Jolog's,

Top Cuisine, Mr. Smoothie, and TC Catering.

Non-food sellers are Natasha Service Center, Chellu Alynes Jewelry, Maranatha store, Wimzy Corp., Anew Excel International Corp., Green Life, and Asia Mart.

Secretary Annamae Adaza, who is also the event's program committee co-chair, said there are a total of six challengers for the *Panlasang Pinoy* food contest.

These challengers will vie for the \$300 first prize for the best tasting *Pinoy* dishes that they will prepare: pork adobo, beef caldereta, tinolang manok, ginataang tuna, and pinakbet. Cash prizes of \$200 and \$100 will be given to the second and third place winners, respectively.

Meanwhile, there are eight young finalists for the *Pusong Pinoy* 2012 beauty pageant, which is open to young females ages 15 to 25 years old who will compete in four categories: sports-wear, talent portion, formal wear, and question-and-answer.

These beautiful candidates are Saipan Southern High School's Sheryl Lou Indalecio, 16; Chinatown resident Lou Angelina Gascon, 15; Marianas High School's

Carla Camille Flores, 16; Chalan Kanoa resident Rita Lorraine V. Doca, 16; Josie Ann Santos, 15, also of SSHS; Northern Marianas College student Holly Kane Medina, 19; Susupe resident Maria Angelica Malasarte, 15; and Kahra Bisnar Atalig, 16, also of MHS.

The girls' production numbers at the event are choreographed and directed by Joel Vallega.

Adaza said there will also be a Valentine card drawing contest in two age groups: for children 7 to 13 years old and teens 15 to 19 years old.

Raffle tickets will also be sold at the venue for a chance to win exciting prizes donated by numerous sponsors and donors who will be acknowledged at the program.

"We are inviting all our *kababayans* and the CNMI community to join us and with all your support, the event will be a huge success," said Adaza.

For more information, contact the following individuals: food contest, Peter Crisostomo at 287-2325; program, Min-da Castro at 989-0604 or Olive Yana at 285-7893; pageant, Joel Vallega at 785-8422; for all others, Bok Enano at 234-9380 or Bong Malasarte at 287-5525.



# US lawmakers back stronger ties with Philippines

By **MATTHEW PENNINGTON**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

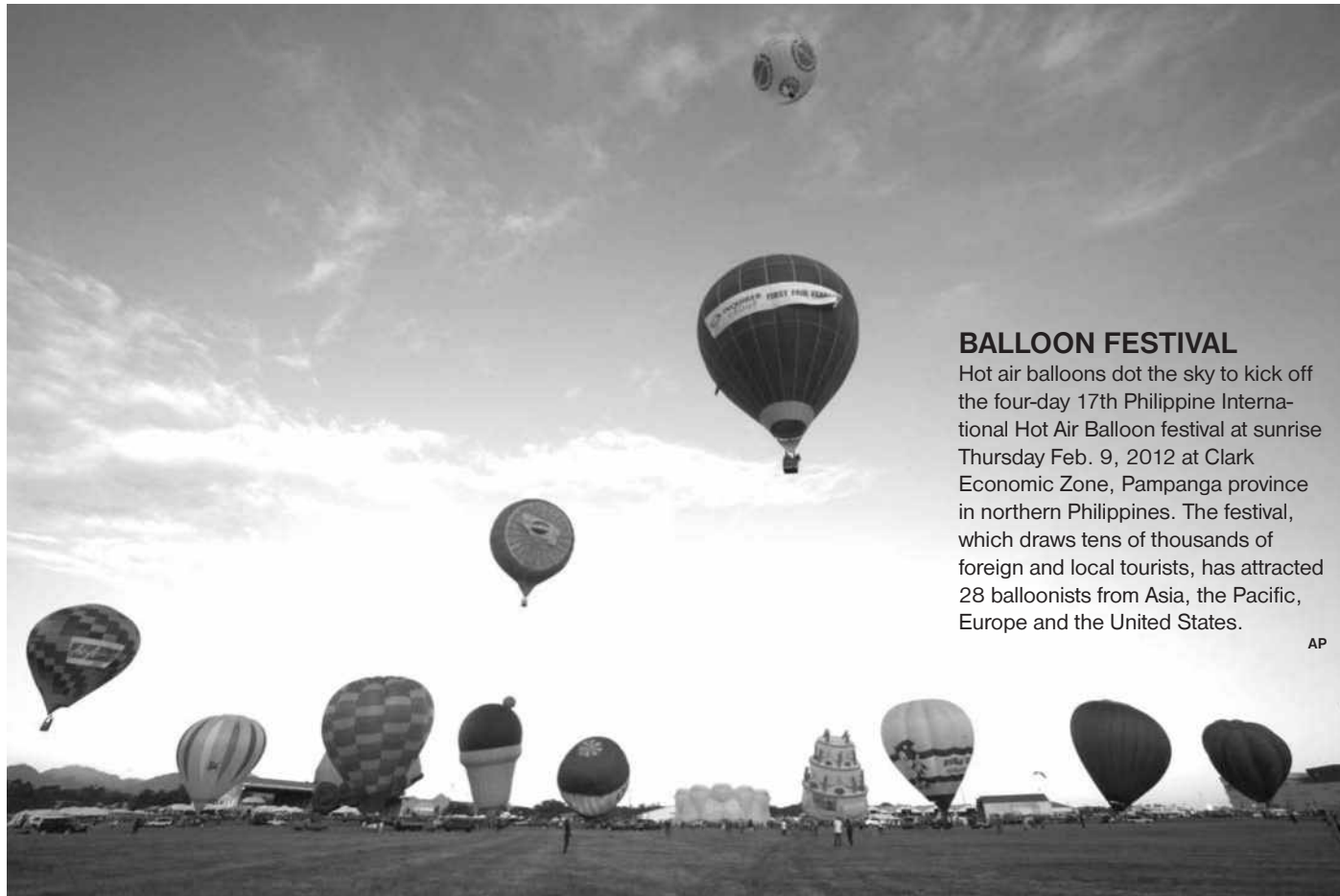
**WASHINGTON (AP)**—U.S. lawmakers backed Obama administration efforts to forge a stronger relationship with the Philippines and said Congress soon will approve the transfer of a second ship to help the ally's navy defend its waters.

Republican Rep. Ed Royce told a House of Representatives Foreign Affairs hearing on U.S.-Philippine relations that the congressional review process for transferring the Coast Guard cutter *Dallas* will be finished this week, and the ship should soon be on its way to Manila. Another aging U.S. cutter, the *Hamilton*, was transferred to the Philippines last May.

The U.S. has sought to boost the Philippines' ability to maintain its maritime security because of its ally's concern over assertive Chinese behavior in disputed waters of the South China Sea.

While the United States has no territorial claims in the region, the top U.S. diplomat for East Asia, Kurt Campbell, reiterated that the U.S. has a national interest in such claims' peaceful resolution and the freedom of navigation in seas that carry about a half the total tonnage of world trade.

Campbell said the U.S. is



## BALLOON FESTIVAL

Hot air balloons dot the sky to kick off the four-day 17th Philippine International Hot Air Balloon festival at sunrise Thursday Feb. 9, 2012 at Clark Economic Zone, Pampanga province in northern Philippines. The festival, which draws tens of thousands of foreign and local tourists, has attracted 28 balloonists from Asia, the Pacific, Europe and the United States.

AP

considering a "reasonable" Philippine request also to transfer gear stripped from the *Hamilton* before it was handed over.

The U.S. took the sensors from the ship before it was decommissioned, as well as its communications and electronics equipment, and close-in weapons system, which is used

to detect and destroy at short range incoming anti-ship missiles and enemy aircraft.

The ship, commissioned in 1967, was transferred under a program that offers "excess defense articles" to foreign partners in support of U.S. national security and foreign policy objectives.

Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense Peter Lavoy said the *Hamilton* had completed on Monday its first patrol in the vicinity of the Spratly Islands.

Asked about possible Philippine acquisition of F-16 fighter jets, Lavoy was non-committal. He said the U.S. was considering a range of

military capabilities requested by Manila, and "affordability and sustainability" would be critical in evaluating them.

Campbell, who stressed the importance of stronger economic ties, spoke in gushing terms about the bilateral relationship with the Philippines, one of five U.S. treaty allies in Asia.

"There's no country in Asia that's more welcoming to the United States, more supportive of a stronger relationship and more on our side, rooting for us every step of the way," he said.

He described the Philippines' president, Benigno Aquino, as a person of "rare integrity" and lauded his efforts to fight corruption.

The two Republican lawmakers who spoke at the hearing supported administration efforts to strengthen ties. Royce said the Philippines had been largely ignored in U.S. foreign policy in recent years, but that was starting to change.

Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, an arch critic of China, praised the joint U.S.-Philippine efforts to fight Islamic militants in the southern Philippines. For the past decade, hundreds of U.S. forces have helped equip and train Filipino forces there.

Rohrabacher described an air strike last week that killed a leader of the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf group, for which the U.S. shared intelligence, as a victory against radical Islam.

"We need to stand as aggressively and as solidly with the Philippine government in confronting an aggressive, arrogant, expansionist China as we have in standing against radical Islam," he said.



## Notice of Meeting

### NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE BOARD OF REGENTS' REGULAR MEETING

Date: February 14, 2012  
Time: 10:00 a.m.  
Place: Northern Marianas College  
BOR Conference Room  
Saipan Campus

## AGENDA

- I. Call Meeting to Order**
  - a. Roll Call
  - b. Review and Adoption of Agenda
  - c. Review and Adoption of Minutes
    1. December 16, 2011 – Regular Meeting
- II. Public Comment Period:** Individuals may orally testify on items on this agenda during the Public Comment Period. Written testimony is also accepted. Testifiers are requested to limit their testimony to five (5) minutes.
- III. Board Chair's Remarks**
- IV. Reports**
  - a. Associated Students of NMC
  - b. Staff Senate
  - c. Faculty Senate
  - d. President's Report
    1. Dean of Administration Financial Report
  - e. Program Highlights – Financial Aid
  - f. Peer Analysis
  - g. Quality Effectiveness Data
  - h. Spring Enrollment Report
  - i. Board Policies 5 year Calendar
- V. Old Business**
  - a. WASC Matters
    1. WASC Accreditation Update (**No action required**)
  - b. NMC Foundation Update
- VI. New Business**
  - a. **Legislative Update**
    1. HB 17-041 – To Rename NMC the "Governor Carlos S. Camacho, Northern Marianas College" (**Action Item**)
  - b. **Board Policy for Consideration – First Reading**
    1. Board Policy No. 801 – Campus Facilities Planning (**Action Item**)
  - c. **Board Resolution No. 2012-01:** To update bank signatures (**Action Item**)
  - d. **Accounts Receivables Debt Write Off** (**Action Item**)
  - e. **2013 Budget Submission** (**Action Item**)
  - f. **NMC Foundation – Organizational matters**
- VII. Executive Session**  
(At any time during the scheduled meeting of the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential)
- VIII. Board Self-Evaluation**
- IX. Adjournment**

/s/ Juan T. Lizama  
BOR Chairperson

Date: February 10, 2012

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# Samu't Sari



BEACH CLEANUP

Shirley's Coffee Shop Susupe and Garapan branch staff conducted their monthly beach cleanup last Thursday, Feb. 9, at their adopted beach at the back of Aquarius Beach Tower in Susupe. Joining the group is the Shirley's Football Club U15 team players. Also in photo is Shirley's general manager Susan Macario.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



ISLAND ART EXHIBIT

The first Island Artist Exhibit, which features various artworks from local artists, is in progress at the Saipan Grand Hotel lobby until Feb. 29.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



SOFTBALL CHAMPS

Congratulations to the champs, Team GAGU, for winning in the Jess Seman softball tournament fundraiser last weekend.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



GUEST SPEAKER

Frank Camacho from the CNMI Neighborhood Watch speaks as one of the guest speakers of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce during the group's general membership meeting at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe on Feb. 8, 2012.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Paul Carlo R. Samson, who recently graduated from his U.S. Air Force training, receiving the Marksmanship Award. He's currently stationed in GulfPort, Mississippi.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday to Kepina S. Tababa who celebrates her special day today, Feb. 11, 2012. Greetings come from mom, dad, grandpa and grandma.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Belated happy birthday to Mayvaleen S. Tesero, who turned 6 years old on Feb. 8, 2012! God bless and happy birthday princess! Greetings come from mama and papa.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advanced happy birthday to Auntie Samantha Aldan Polig! There aren't many like you around. Just like a twinkling pearl, you are gorgeous. Just like a truffle, you are just too sweet! Just like a diamond, you are precious. We just love having you in our life! Greetings come from Lu-luboy, Chicha, Kayden, and Boyd.



# Business

## Greek deal to cut spending does not end debt drama

**FRANKFURT, Germany** (AP)—More than two years after it came clean about its addiction to debt, Greece may finally have begun its long and painful road to recovery.

Greece's fractious political leaders struck a deal Thursday to make deep cuts in government jobs and spending to help save the country from a default that could shock the world financial system.

The deal, under negotiation since July, is one of two critical steps Greece must take to receive a euro130 billion (\$170 billion) bailout from other countries in Europe and around the globe.

European ministers said the deal needs to go further and gave Greece until the middle of next week to find an extra euro325 million (\$430 million) in savings, pass the cuts through a divided parliament, and get written guarantees that they will be implemented even after elections set for April. Greece is expected to rush the new austerity measures through parliament by late Sunday.

In addition to the fiscal austerity mandated by the European Union, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund, Greece is close to an agreement with private investors who hold nearly two-thirds of its debt to sharply reduce the coun-

try's borrowing costs.

Greece needs the bailout by March 20 so it will have enough money to redeem euro14.5 billion worth of bonds coming due. If it doesn't make that payment, it will be in default. Financial analysts fear that could set off a chain reaction similar to the financial meltdown triggered by the collapse of investment bank Lehman Brothers in the fall of 2008.

The bailout will ease some of the uncertainty that has unsettled Europe and the world financial system for more than two years, but it will not bring down the curtain on Greece's debt drama.

Greece remains in a deep recession. Unemployment is 20.9 percent after the economy's fifth straight year of decline. Its government finances and its economy are being dragged down by costly political patronage, tax evasion and special protections for some favored trades.

Greece will be struggling to pay its debts for years, says Domenico Lombardi, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. "The scope of the problems that have to be tackled in Greece are so huge and so entrenched," he says.

Efforts to fix those fundamental problems, at the behest of Greece's increasingly exasperated creditors—including prosperous Germany—are moving slowly, if at all. If they are not

## NRC approves first new nuclear plant in 3 decades

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The nation's first new nuclear power plant in a generation won approval Thursday as federal regulators voted to grant a license for two new reactors at a site in eastern Georgia.

Atlanta-based Southern Co. hopes to begin operating the \$14 billion reactors at its Vogtle site south of Augusta as soon as 2016. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission approved the company's plans on a 4-1 vote.

The NRC last approved construction of a nuclear plant in 1978, a year before a partial meltdown of the Three Mile Island nuclear plant in Pennsylvania. After that accident, fears of a radiation release were heightened and new reactor orders were brought nearly to a halt.

The planned reactors, along with two others in South Carolina expected to win approval in coming months, are the remnants of a once-anticipated building boom that the power industry dubbed the "nuclear

renaissance." The head of an industry lobbying group said the Vogtle project could be the start of a smaller renaissance that expands nuclear power in the United States.

"This is a historic day," said Marvin Fertel, president and CEO of the Nuclear Energy Institute. He said the NRC vote "sounds a clarion call to the world that the United States recognizes the importance of expanding nuclear energy as a key component of a low-carbon energy future that is central to job creation, diversity of electricity supply and energy security."

President Barack Obama and other proponents say greater use of nuclear power could cut the nation's reliance on fossil fuels and create energy without producing emissions blamed for global warming. The Obama administration has offered the Vogtle project \$8.3 billion in federal loan guarantees as part of its pledge to expand nuclear power.



A man wrapped in a sleeping bag during near-freezing temperatures walks past a graffiti-covered wall in central Athens, Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2012.

solved, Greece may find itself back at the edge of default.

The deal Greek political leaders struck Thursday includes a 22 percent cut in the monthly minimum wage to euro586 (\$780), layoffs for 15,000 civil servants and an end to dozens of job guarantee provisions.

Greece is also close to a vital debt-relief deal with banks, hedge funds, pension funds and other private investors. Under the tentative deal, the private investors would exchange

More than two dozen nuclear reactors have been proposed in recent years, but experts now say it is likely that only five or six new reactors will be completed by the end of the decade.

The once-expected nuclear power boom has been plagued by a series of problems, from the prolonged economic downturn to the sharp drop in the price of natural gas and the March 2011 nuclear disaster in Japan.

"It's clear the nuclear renaissance has been significantly slowed," said Edwin Lyman of the Union of Concerned Scientists, a watchdog group. Lyman blamed what he called "inappropriate optimism" about nuclear power that ignores the huge start-up costs and safety risks.

The Vogtle project is considered by many observers to be a major test of whether the industry can build nuclear plants without the delays and cost overruns that plagued earlier rounds of building.

euro206 billion in Greek government bonds for euro30 billion in cash, plus euro70 billion in new bonds. The cash would come from the euro130 billion package from Europe and the IMF. The new bonds also would have a lower aver-

## House bans federal lawmakers from insider trading

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The House on Thursday joined the Senate in voting to explicitly prohibit members of Congress and other top officials from making investments on insider information. But an effort to bridge purveyors of Capitol Hill political intelligence could delay the bill's enactment.

House Republicans stripped out provisions from the Senate bill that would:

- Treat people who sell inside information about Congress like lobbyists and make them file reports detailing what they spend and with whom they talk.

- Restore the tools to prosecutors to bring public corruption cases against state and federal officials.

The Senate is unlikely to accept those changes, according to a Democratic leadership aide speaking on condition of anonymity because no final decision has been made. That would mean negotiators would have to find a compromise agreeable to both houses before the bill could be signed into law. President Barack Obama has already said he would sign it.

The bill passed the House by a 417-2 vote just a week after the Senate approved its ver-

age interest rate and a longer term of maturity.

The combination of less principal to repay when the bonds mature and less interest to pay every year until then means Greece would spend about 70 percent less than it would have

sion 96-3. The lopsided votes illustrate how members of both houses are united in trying to dig Congress out from dismal approval ratings.

As much as anything, the bill is a response to a CBS "60 Minutes" segment in November raising questions about lawmakers enriching themselves through investments based on nonpublic information they gleaned in their jobs. Lawmakers and other public officials already are covered by laws prohibiting insider trading.

Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., said the overwhelming vote "puts some pressure on the Senate" to accept the House bill. He said the Senate-added provisions stray from the bill's main purpose of winning back the public's trust—and are "outside of what we do and who we are."

Senior executive branch officials already have tougher ethics rules than members of Congress. Lawmakers said they decided to include them in the bill's coverage to create a level ethical playing field for all federal policymakers. About 28,000 executive branch officials file public, annual financial disclosure forms—the same as members

without a deal.

The debt held by the European Central Bank and other public institutions accounts for one-third of Greece's national debt and is not part of this tentative deal. However, ECB President Mario Draghi said Thursday that the bank could distribute to member countries the profits it stands to make on Greek bonds, leaving open the possibility of additional debt relief for Greece.

If Greece were to default, investors would become reluctant to lend to other heavily indebted European countries for fear they would not get their money back, pushing their borrowing costs even higher than they are now.

Those other countries include Italy, which has an economy six times the size of Greece's. Most analysts say Italy is too big to bail out.

The specter of default has hung over world financial markets for more than two years. Whenever there has been progress—and, indeed, U.S. stock indexes have doubled from the lows they reached in March 2009—Greece has always stood in the way of more.

of Congress and their top aides.

Under the House bill, lawmakers, their aides and the other top policymakers would have to disclose to the public new financial transactions within 30 or 45 days from when they occurred, depending on the circumstances. The Senate bill requires disclosure within 30 days. Cantor's office said the language was broad enough to cover real estate deals and other investments beyond buying and selling stock.

The bill also would prevent members of Congress from getting special access to initial public offerings of stock, or IPOs. That provision was aimed at House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., whose husband in 2008 purchased shares in a Visa IPO while a credit card reform bill was before the House. Pelosi denied any connection between the investment and the credit card bill.

Lawmakers also would have to start disclosing all their mortgages, ending an exemption for loans on personal residences. And the House legislation vastly expands the list of felony convictions that would require lawmakers to be ineligible for their government pensions.



### LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,890.46	1,351.94	2,927.23
+6.51	+1.99	+11.37
+0.05%	+0.15%	+0.39%

### EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms	Australian Dollar	0.9336	Indian Rupee	49.6	Singapore Dollar	1.2561
	British Pound	0.6332	Indonesian Rupiah	9040.62	South Korean Won	1123.72
	Canadian Dollar	0.9973	Japanese Yen	77.6528	Swiss Franc	0.913
	Chinese Yuan	6.2968	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0313	Taiwan Dollar	29.505
	Euro	0.7541	New Zealand Dollar	1.2045	Thailand Baht	30.83



# Nation

## Women at war: Pentagon is easing its job limits

WASHINGTON (AP)—New orders from the Pentagon: The military on Thursday formally opened thousands of jobs to women in units that are closer to the front lines than ever before, reflecting what's already been going on as female American soldiers fight and die next to their male comrades.

The new rules, affecting thousands of jobs, will break down more of the official barriers that have restricted the military positions women can take. They're being sent to Congress, and if lawmakers take no action after 30 work days the policy will take effect.

The changes still aren't coming fast enough for some in Congress or the military. They noted that the rules still ban women from serving as infantry, armor and special operations forces, which are considered the most

### Leaving 'No Child' law: Obama lets 10 states flee

WASHINGTON (AP)—It could be the beginning of the end for No Child Left Behind.

The goal was lofty: Get all children up to par in math and reading by 2014. But the nation isn't getting there, and now some states are getting out.

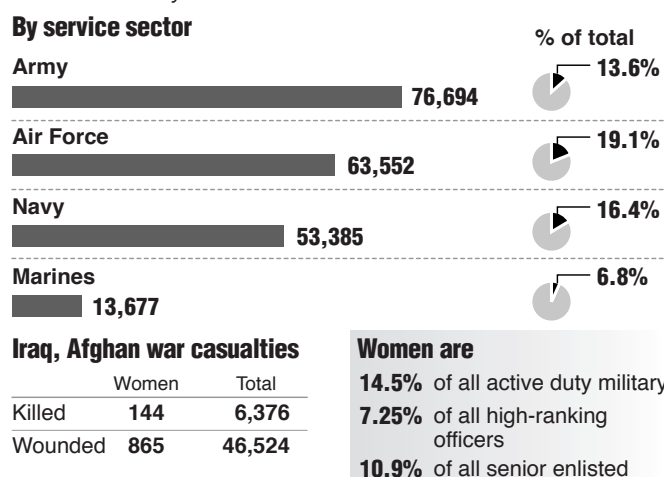
In a sign of what's to come, President Barack Obama on Thursday freed 10 states from some of the landmark law's toughest requirements. Those states, which had to commit to their own, federally approved plans, will now be free, for example, to judge students with methods other than test scores. They also will be able to factor in subjects beyond reading and math.

"We can combine greater freedom with greater accountability," Obama said from the White House. Plenty more states are bound to take him up on the offer.

While many educators and many governors celebrated, congressional Republicans ac-

### Women in the U.S. military

The Pentagon is opening 14,372 new jobs for women that are expected to put more of them in combat-related roles. A look at women in military service:



Source: Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation, Inc., McClatchy Washington Bureau  
Graphic: Judy Treible © 2012 MCT

dangerous combat jobs.

Instead, they reflect what's been happening for the past

10 years of war in Iraq and Afghanistan. They will allow women to perform many

2014, is not within reach.

The states excused from following the law no longer have to meet that deadline. Instead, they had to put forward plans showing they will prepare children for college and careers, set new targets for improving achievement among all students, reward the best performing schools and focus help on the ones doing the worst.

Obama said he was acting because Congress had failed to update the law despite widespread agreement it needed to be fixed.

"We've offered every state the same deal," Obama said. "If you're willing to set higher, more honest standards than the ones that were set by No Child Left Behind, then we're going to give you the flexibility to meet those standards."

The executive action by Obama is one of his most prominent in an ongoing campaign to act on his own where Congress is rebuffing him.

of the jobs they are already doing—but in smaller units, closer to the fighting and once considered too dangerous.

"Unfortunately, the conclusions of this report do not go far enough," said Rep. Loretta Sanchez, a member of the House Armed Services Committee who started a caucus on women in the military. Sanchez said she was "very disappointed" that the Defense Department didn't lift the ban on combat jobs for women.

Because service in combat gives troops an advantage for promotions and job opportunities, it has been more difficult for women to move to the higher ranks.

A 1994 Pentagon policy bans women from being assigned to ground combat units below the brigade level. A brigade is roughly 3,500 troops split into several battalions of about 800 soldiers each. Historically, brigades were based farther from the front lines and they often include top command and support staff, while battalions—now open to women—are usually in closer contact with the enemy.

In the past decade, the necessities of war propelled women into jobs such as medics, military police and intelligence officers, and they were sometimes attached—but not formally assigned—to battalions. So while a woman couldn't be assigned as an infantryman in a battalion going out on patrol, she could fly the helicopter supporting the unit, or move in to provide medical aid if troops were injured.

The new rules will formally allow women to work in those jobs at the battalion level. And they will also open up a number of Army jobs that had been

closed to women, such as tank and artillery mechanics or rocket launcher crew members.

While the rules won't open up the Navy SEALs or the Army Delta Force to women, some defense officials have said the military may eventually be open to that. Former Defense Secretary Robert Gates told North Carolina ROTC students in 2010 that at some point there would be careful

### Powell had 'incestuous' images

SEATTLE (AP)—Before Josh Powell was going to try to win back custody of his children last week, Washington state authorities received materials from Utah police that had been discovered on a computer in Powell's home two years ago. Authorities say the images depicted "incestuous" sex and were disconcerting enough that they prompted a psychologist to recommend that Powell undergo an intensive psychosexual evaluation.

But a lawyer for Powell's in-laws, who had custody of the boys, wasn't invited to see the computer-generated materials before the custody hearing—even though a Utah judge had specified in a sealed court order that he was one of the few people allowed to see them.

Had he seen the images, attorney Steve Downing said, he might have asked the court to change the terms of Powell's supervised visitation with the boys, such as by asking for the visits to be in a public place. Instead, Downing said he didn't learn until Thursday morning—four days after Powell killed himself and the boys in a house fire—that he was allowed to see them.

"That would have absolutely

steps in that direction.

Already, however, women are serving with special operations forces in support jobs such as intelligence analysts, legal specialists, builders and administration assistants.

Vee Penrod, the deputy assistant undersecretary of defense for military personnel, said officials will continue to look for other possible changes, but this was a good start.

given me the opportunity to submit a declaration about our deep concern. I was approved ... to view those pictures and I was never notified," Downing said. "I could have gone into all the reasons why the visitation could have or should have been restricted."

Pierce County Sheriff's Detective Ed Troyer told The Associated Press on Thursday night that the images collected by investigators from Powell's home computer in Utah two years ago were realistic computer-generated depictions of "incestuous" parent-child relations.

"It's family-oriented in nature," Troyer said. "It is incestuous."

Troyer said the images couldn't be legally defined as pornography because they don't involve real people. Troyer said the judge in last week's custody hearing was apprised of the images at the proceeding.

Powell was the only person of interest in the disappearance of his wife, Susan Powell, from their home in West Valley City, Utah, in 2009. He was never arrested or charged in the case, and a month after she vanished, he moved with his boys back to his father Steve's home in Puyallup, Wash., south of Seattle.

### US Marines posed with Nazi symbol in Afghanistan

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The Marine Corps on Thursday once again did damage control after a photograph surfaced of a sniper team in Afghanistan posing in front of a flag with a logo resembling that of the notorious Nazi SS—a special unit that murdered millions of Jews, gypsies and others.

The Corps said in a statement that using the symbol was not acceptable, but the Marines in the photograph taken in September 2010 will not be disciplined because investigators determined it was a naive mistake.

The Marines believed the SS symbol was meant to represent sniper scouts and never intended to be associated with a racist organization, said Maj. Gabrielle Chapin, a spokeswoman at Camp Pendleton, where the Marines were based.

"I don't believe that the Marines involved would have ever

used any type of symbol associated with the Nazi Germany military criminal organization that committed mass atrocities in WWII," Chapin said. "It's not within who we are as Marines."

The Corps has used the incident as a training tool to talk to troops about what symbols are acceptable after it became aware of the photograph last November, Chapin said.

The image has since surfaced on an Internet blog, sparking widespread outrage and calls for a full investigation and punishment, including bringing those in the photograph and anyone who condoned it to court martial.

"This is a complete and total outrage," said Mikey Weinstein of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, headquartered in Albuquerque, N.M.

His organization sent a letter to the head of the Marine Corps, Gen. James Amos, and

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta on Thursday, demanding punishment for those involved.

It was the second time this year the Marine Corps has had to do damage control for actions of its troops. It's also investigating a separate group of Marines recorded on video urinating on the dead bodies of Taliban fighters.

"First we have Marines peeing on dead bodies and now this," Weinstein said.

The Marines in the photograph are no longer with the unit. Chapin said she did not know if they are still in the Corps.

In the photo taken in the Afghanistan town of Sangin, the Marine Corps unit is posing with guns in front of an American flag and a large, dark blue flag with what appear to be the letters "SS" in the shape of white jagged lightning bolts.



President Barack Obama shakes hands with Education Secretary Arne Duncan after speaking about No Child Left Behind, Thursday, Feb. 9, 2012, in the East Room of the White House in Washington.



# Asia

## SKoreans visit jointly run factory park in NKorea

**PAJU, South Korea (AP)**—Eight South Korean lawmakers made a high-profile visit Friday to a modern factory park that sits just across the world's most heavily armed border and represents the last major cooperative initiative between the two rival Koreas.

The 123 South Korean companies operating at the jointly run industrial park in the North Korean border city of Kaesong are producing hundreds of millions of dollars worth of products and adding workers despite political animosity that keeps the two governments from formally speaking to each other.

North Korea allowed one South Korean legislator to visit Kaesong last year, but Friday's trip is the highest-profile visit to the factory by South Koreans since North Koreans observed an 11-day mourning period for late leader Kim Jong Il, who died in December, and declared his son, Kim Jong Un, supreme commander of the 1.2 million-strong military.

The lawmakers had no plans to meet with North Korean officials during their one-day visit. They planned to tour South Korean-built infrastructure and several factories in the 1.3-square-mile (3.3-square-kilometer) industrial zone and could talk with North Korean workers. They weren't accompanied by reporters.

Seoul, which does not allow its citizens to visit the North without approval, has restricted the number of South Koreans allowed to live and work at the plant since violence in 2010 plunged ties between the Koreas to a low point. The Korean peninsula is in a technical state of war because the 1950-53 Korean



Ruling Saenury Party lawmaker Kim Chung-hwan, third from left, and other South Korean lawmakers wave to the media before heading to North Korea's Industrial District of Kaesong from the Inter-Korean Transit Terminal at the border village of Paju in the demilitarized zone, South Korea, Friday, Feb. 10, 2012.

War ended in a truce.

Still, despite the tension, the Kaesong factory zone has managed to grow. The South Korean government says an increasing number of companies are interested in the nearby, cheap labor source that Kaesong represents.

The Unification Ministry in Seoul said this week that the South Korean companies operating in the zone now employ more than 50,000 North Korean workers, a 110 percent jump from four years earlier, when relations between the Koreas started deteriorating.

Last year, the factory park produced \$400 million worth of electronic goods, kitchenware, clothes, shoes, food and other labor-intensive products, according to the ministry, which handles exchanges with North

Korea. That's a 60 percent increase from 2008, when conservative President Lee Myung-bak took power in South Korea with a tough policy that cut off no-strings-attached aid for North Korea, linking assistance to progress on nuclear disarmament demands.

North Korea recently said inter-Korean talks are possible, but only if South Korea answers a long list of preconditions. That marks a step back from an earlier vow by North Korea to shun the Lee government as a dialogue partner.

South Korea this week offered talks with Pyongyang on curbing pests near a historic site in North Korea. Pyongyang has yet to formally respond.

The Kaesong industrial complex opened in 2004, six years after the two Koreas began a

gation of high-ranking officials and lawmakers to launch a comprehensive probe into the affair. The coalition confirmed only that there was a "situation in Najrab district" that was being assessed by a team to determine what had happened. More information would be released when the assessment is completed, the coalition said in a statement.

### Terror trial of accused Bali bomber starts Monday

**JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)**—An Indonesian accused of making the explosives used in the 2002 Bali bombings is scheduled to go on trial next week on terrorism and murder charges, a court official said Thursday. Umar Patek, 41, was Asia's most wanted terror suspect with a \$1 million bounty on his head when authorities caught up with him Jan. 25, 2011, in Abbottabad, Pakistan—the same town where Osama bin Laden was killed in a U.S. commando attack four months later. He will be tried at the West Jakarta District Court beginning Monday, said court spokesman Mirdin Alamsyah. Another court official, Ricar Nasution, said the five-judge panel would be led by the court's chief, Lexsy Mamoto.

## US kills al-Qaida-linked militant in Pakistan

**DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP)**—A U.S. drone fired two missiles at a house in Pakistan's northwest tribal region Thursday, killing five suspected militants, intelligence officials said. The Taliban identified one of them as a prominent commander who has served as a key link to al-Qaida.

The commander, Badar Mansoor, led a group of over 200 Pakistani Taliban fighters in the North Waziristan tribal area, the main sanctuary for militants in Pakistan, said a fellow insurgent.

Pakistani intelligence officials could not confirm that Mansoor was one of the five suspected militants killed in the strike in the main bazaar in Miran Shah, the biggest town in North Waziristan.

The intelligence officials and Taliban fighter spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not autho-

rized to talk to the media.

The strike was the second in as many days in North Waziristan, an indication the drone program is picking up steam again after a slowdown caused by tensions with Pakistan over accidental American airstrikes that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers last year.

The U.S. held off on carrying out drone strikes for over six weeks after the deadly accident on Nov. 26. There have been a handful of attacks since they resumed in January, but the last two are the first consecutive strikes since the border incident.

Mansoor, the militant commander who was killed before dawn on Thursday, was from Pakistan's largest province, Punjab, and migrated to North Waziristan in 2008, said the Taliban fighter who reported his death. The 230 fighters he led were also from Punjab, said

cross-border tour project at a resort on Diamond Mountain on the North's east coast. Those tours were suspended after a South Korean tourist was shot and killed by a North Korean guard in 2008. That leaves the Kaesong venture as the last remaining major symbol of reconciliation.

With relations so frigid between the countries, the fact that Pyongyang gave consent to Friday's visit by South Korean lawmakers is meaningful, said Ryoo Kihl-jae, a professor at Seoul's University of North Korean Studies.

The workers—more than 70 percent of whom are female, according to the ministry—receive a steady source of income. Unification Ministry officials said their monthly wages are around \$110; about half of that goes to North Korean authorities, while the workers get the rest in North Korean currency or coupons.

the insurgent.

The enlistment of Punjabis in the Pakistani Taliban has been a serious concern for the government because it is easier for them to export violence from the hinterlands near the Afghan border to the heart of the country.

Mansoor was allegedly involved in many suicide attacks throughout Pakistan.

On Wednesday, another salvo of U.S. missiles hit a house in North Waziristan's Spalga village, killing nine people including some Pakistani Taliban militants, said Pakistani intelligence officials, who also spoke on condition of anonymity.

President Barack Obama spoke publicly about the covert CIA-run drone program for the first time in a recent interview. But he and other U.S. officials refuse to openly say more about the details of the strikes because they are classified.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Report says 2 Tibetans killed by security forces

**BEIJING (AP)**—Two Tibetan brothers on the run since taking part in anti-government protests two weeks ago have been shot dead in southwest China's Sichuan province, a U.S.-funded broadcaster reported Friday. Radio Free Asia said the two were shot and killed after being surrounded in Luhuo county on Thursday. The county was the site of anti-government protests on Jan. 23. Radio Free Asia cited sources in the area and in the Tibetan exile community in India. It identified the two as Yeshe Rigdal, a 40-year-old monk, and his 38-year-old brother, Yeshe Samdrub.

#### Afghan president postpones handover of US prison

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)**—Afghan President Hamid Karzai on Thursday claimed that an airstrike carried out by the international coalition killed eight children in eastern Afghanistan. The Afghan leader said in a statement that the strike took place Wednesday in the Najrab district of Kapisa province, and that he has assigned a dele-

## Police issue warrant for Maldives ex-president

**MALE, Maldives (AP)**—A court in the Maldives issued an arrest warrant Thursday for former President Mohamed Nasheed, a day after his supporters rampaged in the capital and his claim of being ousted in a coup left unclear the stability of the fledgling Indian Ocean democracy.

Police spokesman Abdul Mannan Yusuf refused to disclose the grounds for the criminal court's warrant, or say when Nasheed—who is living at his Male home, surrounded by supporters—would be arrested.

Later, Police Commissioner Abdullah Riaz said it was not clear if the warrant was consti-

tutional. He declined to provide details, but said the warrant's legality was still being examined.

Nasheed had announced he was voluntarily resigning Tuesday after months of protests against his rule and fading support from the police and the army. But the next day, as former Vice President Mohammed Waheed Hassan was forming a new government, Nasheed suddenly announced he had actually been pushed from power at gunpoint.

Thousands of his supporters swept into the streets. They clashed with security forces in Male, the capital, and attacked police stations in remote parts of this 1,200-island archipelago

nation off southern India. The new government insists there was no coup.

Late on Thursday, Nasheed demanded his successor step down and called for new presidential elections, now scheduled for September 2013.

"We want an election as soon as possible," he told hundreds of cheering supporters gathered at a conference hall in Male, predicting his Maldivian Democratic Party will emerge victorious from the vote. "Forty-eight hours out of power and we have over 500 people in jail without any charges," he said. The number of people arrested could not be immediately verified.



## World

## Suffering deepens in bombed Syrian city of Homs

BEIRUT (AP)—Between blasts of rockets and mortar fire, Syrians used loudspeakers to call for blood donations and medical supplies Thursday in the stricken city of Homs, where a weeklong government offensive has created a deepening humanitarian crisis.

Government forces are trying to crush pockets of violent resistance in Homs, the epicenter of an 11-month-old uprising that has brought the country ever closer to civil war. The intense shelling in restive neighborhoods such as Baba Amr has made it difficult to get medicine and care to the wounded, and some areas have been without electricity for days, activists say. "Snipers are on all the roofs in Baba Amr, shooting at people," Abu Muhammad Ibrahim, an activist in Homs, told The Associated Press by phone.

"Anything that moves, even a bird, is targeted. Life is completely cut off. It's a city of ghosts," he added.

As he spoke, explosions could be heard in the background.

"The bombardment has not eased, day or night," he said, asking to be identified by his nickname for fear of reprisals. "Do you hear the sound of the rockets? Children have been wounded, elderly with extreme injuries."

Hundreds of people are believed to have been killed since early Saturday in the heaviest attack the city has endured since the uprising began in March, ac-

tivists said.

"This brutal assault on residential neighborhoods shows the Syrian authorities' contempt for the lives of their citizens in Homs," said Anna Neistat, associate emergencies director at Human Rights Watch. "Those responsible for such horrific attacks will have to answer for them."

Human Rights Watch also said eyewitness accounts, as well as video reviewed by the group's arms experts, suggest Syrian government forces are using long-range, indirect fire weapons such as mortars.

Such weapons "are inherently indiscriminate when fired into densely populated areas," the New York-based group said.

The wounded have overwhelmed makeshift hospitals and clinics, and there were growing concerns that the locked-down city could soon run out of supplies.

"There is medicine in the pharmacies, but getting it to the field clinics is very difficult. They can't get the medicine to the wounded," Mohammed Saleh, a Syria-based activist, told the AP by telephone.

Baba Amr, he said, has been without electricity since Saturday.

The assault on Homs began after reports that army defectors and other armed opponents of President Bashar Assad were setting up their own checkpoints and taking control of some areas. The reports could not be confirmed.

But the city is the capital of Syria's largest province, stretching from the Lebanese border to the Iraqi frontier. If rebel forces keep gaining ground there, some believe they could ultimately carve out a zone akin to Benghazi in eastern Libya, where rebels launched their successful uprising against Moammar Gadhafi last year.

Saleh said most of the government attacks have been "bombardment from a distance," with regime forces keeping armored vehicles out of the neighborhoods.

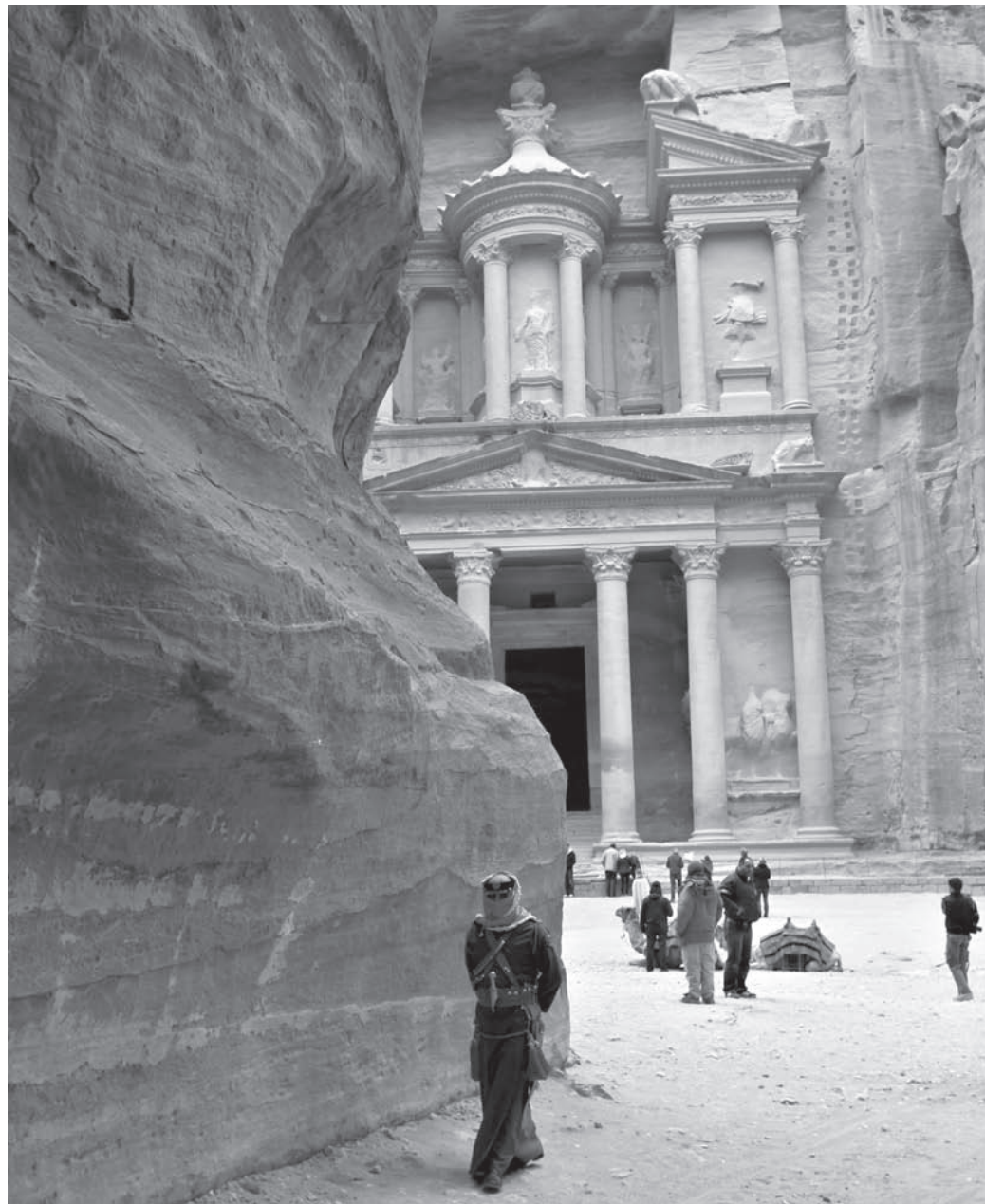
Fighters from the rebel Free Syrian Army have been firing back with rocket-propelled grenades and rockets, according to activists' accounts.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and the Local Coordination Committees were trying to compile numbers and names of those killed Thursday. The LCC, an activist group, said up to 100 people were killed in Homs, but the toll was impossible to independently verify. The Observatory reported 63 deaths in Homs.

Activists also reported violence in the towns of Zabadani and Daraa.

As the bloodshed persists, the international community is searching for new diplomatic approaches to stop the protracted conflict.

The Syrian government blames the unrest on a foreign conspiracy by Israel and the West. It says armed gangs and terrorists are behind the uprising, not protesters seeking democratic change.



## WORLD WONDER

A Jordanian guard walks at the Siq, a 1,300 meters (0.8 mile) path that leads to the Treasury site during their visit the ancient city of Petra, Jordan, Thursday, Feb. 9, 2012. Petra was selected as one of the new seven wonders of the world in a global poll announced in July when people throughout the world voted by Internet or phone message for the world's top architectural marvels.

AP

## WORLD BRIEFS

## Rio de Janeiro police strike a danger for Carnival

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Rio state police officers voted at a rally Thursday night to begin a strike that could prompt violence during the globe's biggest Carnival bash in spite of government approval of a pay raise earlier in the day. The work stoppage will force authorities to deploy thousands of soldiers into the streets to provide security in this city of 6 million people that will host the 2014 World Cup finals and the 2016 Olympics. A measure approved Thursday by Rio's legislature gave police, prison guards and firefighters a 39 percent raise staggered over this year and the next, along with a promise of more in 2014. But the increase is just half of what officers sought.

## Mexican navy recovers 15 bodies from mass graves

VERACRUZ, Mexico (AP)—A suspected member of the Zetas drug cartel led Mexican authorities to mass graves at two ranches in the Gulf coast state of Veracruz where marines unearthed 15 bodies by Wednesday. The navy said its personnel detained Francisco Alvarado Martagon on Tuesday when he tried to drive a vehicle without license plates past a military checkpoint near the city of Acayucan. Once in custody, Alvarado Martagon confessed to being a head lookout for the Zetas, the navy said.

## Noriega leaves hospital in Panama, returns to jail

PANAMA CITY (AP)—Medical authorities in Panama say former dictator Manuel Noriega has left a hospital four days after fainting in the prison where he is serving time for murder, embezzlement and corruption. Health Minister Franklin Vergara says the ex-strongman was returned to the custody of Public Security Ministry officials Thursday. The 77-year-old Noriega was taken to a hospital Sunday after suffering what appeared to be ill effects of hypertension.

## Arrest warrant issued for close Uribe associate

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—The chief prosecutor's office obtained an arrest warrant Thursday for ex-President Alvaro Uribe's longtime peace commissioner for allegedly choreographing the bogus surrender of a column of leftist guerrillas.

Luis Carlos Restrepo is the third former close associate of Uribe to face criminal charges. The other two, Uribe's former chief of staff and agriculture minister, are in prison in unrelated cases.

Restrepo departed Colombia on Jan. 8 and his whereabouts are unknown, said a top prosecutor, Nestor Armando Novoa. He said the arrest was sought after Restrepo missed several court appearances.

The prosecutor in charge of the case, Martin Moreno, said late Thursday that a Bogota court had issued an arrest warrant.

Restrepo was Uribe's peace commissioner between 2002-2009 and is best known for engineering a peace pact with far-right militias under which the Uribe government said 31,000 fighters gave up their weapons.

The case that led to Thursday's development is unrelated.

It stems from a March 2006 public ceremony, over which Restrepo presided, in which 63 members of the so-called "Cacica Gaitana" bloc of the leftist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) disarmed in the central state of Tolima.

Various of the men who posed as guerrillas later testified that they were not insurgents but rather thieves, indigents and unemployed who were recruited by a jailed former FARC fighter and paid at least \$250 each for participating.

Restrepo faces criminal charges carrying a minimum prison sentence of six years including conspiracy and trafficking for private use of military weapons.

The demobilization drew suspicion almost immediately because, while the desertion of FARC fighters was common at the time, such a coordinated surrender was considered highly improbable because rebel leaders regularly shoot deserters.

Restrepo has said that he

never suspected there was anything unusual about the Tolima demobilization.

The case had been under investigation since the end of 2010. Two of the men who participated have said the bogus surrender aimed to show the country that the FARC was broken. They alleged it was funded by a drug trafficker.

Drug trafficking was a key funding source for the right-wing militias known as "paramilitaries" over whose various demobilizations Restrepo presided from 2003-2006.

Created in the the 1980s by ranchers and drug traffickers to defend them from guerrilla kidnapping and extortion, the paramilitaries devolved into criminal gangs that, while rarely directly combatting guerrillas, killed suspected rebel sympathizers and stole land from peasants.

Critics of Uribe, including international human rights groups, have long claimed the government's demobilization failed to dismantle the militias and that their criminal struc-

tures are now resurgent.

Uribe extradited more than a dozen demobilized top paramilitary warlords to the United States in 2008 to stand trial for drug trafficking after accusing them of continuing to run criminal organizations from prison.

The conservative Uribe was highly popular during his 2002-2010 presidency for striking major blows against the FARC, improving citizen security, drastically reducing reported kidnappings and as a result attracting foreign investment.

But his government was plagued by scandal, primarily over hundreds of extra-judicial killings by members of the armed forces and over criminal collusion by close political allies with paramilitary warlords.

The two former close associates of Uribe in jail awaiting trial are Andres Felipe Arias, who is accused of funneling agricultural subsidies to well-heeled Uribe cronies, and Bernardo Moreno, who is accused of ordering illegal spying on Uribe's political opponents while serving as his chief of staff.



# YoungStyle

## Teens migrating to Twitter—sometimes for privacy

By MARTHA IRVINE  
AP NATIONAL WRITER

**CHICAGO (AP)**—Teens don't tweet, will never tweet—too public, too many older users. Not cool.

That's been the prediction for a while now, born of numbers showing that fewer than one in 10 teens were using Twitter early on.

But then their parents, grandparents, neighbors, parents' friends and anyone in-between started friending them on Facebook, the social networking site of choice for many—and a curious thing began to happen.

Suddenly, their space wasn't just theirs anymore. So more young people have started shifting to Twitter, almost hiding in plain sight.

"I love twitter, it's the only thing I have to myself ... cause my parents don't have one," Britteny Praznik, a 17-year-old who lives outside Milwaukee, gleefully tweeted recently.

While she still has a Facebook account, she joined Twitter last summer, after more people at her high school did the same. "It just sort of caught on," she says.

Teens tout the ease of use and the ability to send the equivalent of a text message to a circle of friends, often a smaller one than they have on crowded Facebook accounts. They can have multiple accounts and don't have to use their real names. They also can follow their favorite celebrities and, for those interested in doing so, use Twitter as a soapbox.

The growing popularity teens report fits with findings from the Pew Internet & American Life Project, a nonprofit organization that monitors people's tech-based habits. The migration has been slow, but steady. A Pew survey last July found that 16 percent of young people, ages 12 to 17, said they used Twitter. Two years earlier, that percentage was just 8 percent.

"That doubling is definitely a

significant increase," says Mary Madden, a senior research specialist at Pew. And she suspects it's even higher now.

Meanwhile, a Pew survey found that nearly one in five 18- to 29-year-olds have taken a liking to the micro-blogging service, which allows them to tweet, or post, their thoughts 140 characters at a time.

Early on, Twitter had a reputation that many didn't think fit the online habits of teens—well over half of whom were already using Facebook or other social networking services in 2006, when Twitter launched.

"The first group to colonize Twitter were people in the technology industry—consummate self-promoters," says Alice Marwick, a post-doctoral researcher at Microsoft Research, who tracks young people's online habits.

For teens, self-promotion isn't usually the goal. At least until they go to college and start thinking about careers, social networking is, well, ... social.

But as Twitter has grown, so have the ways people, and communities, use it.

For one, though some don't realize it, tweets don't have to be public. A lot of teens like using locked, private accounts. And whether they lock them or not, many also use pseudonyms, so that only their friends know who they are.

"Facebook is like shouting into a crowd. Twitter is like speaking into a room"—that's what one teen said when he was participating in a focus group at Microsoft Research, Marwick says.

Other teens have told Pew researchers that they feel "social pressure," to friend people on Facebook—"for instance, friending everyone in your school or that friend of a friend you met at a football game," Pew researcher Madden says.

Twitter's more fluid and anonymous setup, teens say, gives them more freedom to avoid friends

### ONLINE:

Microsoft Research: <http://research.microsoft.com/>  
Pew: <http://www.pewinternet.org>



In this Friday, Jan. 20, 2012 photo, Taylor Smith checks her Twitter feed while posing for a photograph at her home in Kirkwood, Mo. The 14-year-old started tweeting 18 months and likes to "get small points across" with recent tweets that included her dislike for strawberry Pop Tarts and her admiration for a video that features the accomplishments of girl scientists. Findings from the Pew Internet & American Life Project, found teen Twitter use doubling in two years.

of friends of friends—not that they're saying anything particularly earth-shattering. They just don't want everyone to see it.

Praznik, for instance, tweets anything from complaints and random thoughts to angst and longing.

"i hate snow i hate winter. Moving to California as soon as i can," one recent post from the Wisconsin teen read.

"Dont add me as a friend for a day just to check up on me and then delete me again and then you wonder why im mad at you. duhhh," read another.

And one more: "I wish you were mine but you don't know what you want. Till you figure out what you want I'm going to do my own thing."

Different teenagers use Twitter for different reasons.

Some monitor celebrities.

"Twitter is like a backstage pass to a concert," says Jason Hennessey, CEO of Everspark Interactive, a tech-based mar-

keting agency in Atlanta. "You could send a tweet to Justin Bieber 10 minutes before the concert, and there's a chance he might tweet you back."

A few teens use it as a platform to share opinions, keeping their accounts public for all the world to see, as many adults do.

Taylor Smith, a 14-year-old in St. Louis, is one who uses Twitter to monitor the news and to get her own "small points across." Recently, that has included her dislike for strawberry Pop Tarts and her admiration for a video that features the accomplishments of young female scientists.

She started tweeting 18 months ago after her dad opened his own account. He gave her his blessing, though he watches her account closely.

"Once or twice I used bad language and he never let me hear the end of it," Smith says. Even so, she appreciates the chance to vent and to be heard and thinks

it's only a matter of time before her friends realize that Twitter is the cool place to be - always an important factor with teens.

They need to "realize it's time to get in the game," Smith says, though she notes that some don't have smart phones or their own laptops - or their parents don't want them to tweet, feeling they're too young.

Pam Praznik, Britteny's mother, keeps track of her daughter's Facebook accounts. But Britteny asked that she not follow her on Twitter - and her mom is fine with that, as long as the tweets remain between friends.

"She could text her friends anyway, without me knowing," mom says.

Marwick at Microsoft thinks that's a good call.

"Parents should kind of chill and give them that space," she says.

Still, teens and parents shouldn't assume that even locked accounts are completely private,

says Ananda Mitra, a professor of communication at Wake Forest University in North Carolina.

Online privacy, he says, is "mythical privacy."

Certainly, parents are always concerned about online predators—and experts say they should use the same common sense online as they do in the outside world when it comes to dealing with strangers and providing too much personal information.

But there are other privacy issues to consider, Mitra says.

Someone with a public Twitter account might, for instance, retweet a posting made on a friend's locked account, allowing anyone to see it. It happens all the time.

And on a deeper level, he says those who use Twitter and Facebook—publicly or privately—leave a trail of "digital DNA" that could be mined by universities or employers, law enforcement or advertisers because it is provided voluntarily.

Mitra has coined the term "narb" to describe the narrative bits people reveal about themselves online—age, gender, location and opinions, based on interactions with their friends.

So true privacy, he says, would "literally means withdrawing" from textual communication online or on phones—in essence, using this technology in very limited ways.

He realizes that's not very likely, the way things are going—but he says it is something to think about when interacting with friends, expressing opinions or even "liking" or following a corporation or public figure.

But Marwick at Microsoft still thinks private accounts pose little risk when you consider the content of the average teenager's Twitter account.

"They just want someplace they can express themselves and talk with their friends without everyone watching," she says.

Much like teens always have.

## Make puppet for premiere

By KATHY ANTONIOTTI  
AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

Disney Channel's Sprites don't appear to humans, except their neighbor, Johnny, who lives just outside the portal to their Grotto Grove home.

So, when the magical, winged creatures accidentally turn Johnny's friend into a rabbit in the "Johnny and the Sprites" season premiere, Ginger, Basil, Lily and Root must muster up the courage to meet Gwen and change her back into a human again.

But the Sprites are afraid that Gwen won't like them,

may think they are strange or, in Lily's case, won't like her blue hair. But after they are introduced, the Sprites discover they have more in common with Gwen than differences.

Each episode of the show offers youngsters solutions to social dilemmas and encourages understanding and tolerance for people with different cultures and customs. It encourages children to use reason and thought to understand how behavior affects the environment and the world around them.

Johnny is portrayed by executive producer and Tony Award-nominated actor and puppeteer

John Tartaglia, who also performs as the puppet Sage, the oldest and wisest Sprite in the grove. Tartaglia, a 10-year veteran of "Sesame Street," has performed on Broadway and in many off-Broadway roles. He has appeared in "Bear in the Big Blue House," "JoJo's Circus" and "Animal Jam" on the Discovery Channel.

Each episode of "Johnny and the Sprites" features songs written by some of Broadway's best contemporary composers. It is televised at 7:30 a.m. Saturday and Sunday on the Disney Channel.

Get ready for the season pre-



Create your own sock puppet like the Disney Channel's, "Johnny and the Sprites."

miere by making a sock puppet with these instructions.

### Supplies you will need:

1 pair of colorful socks  
Craft glue  
Water bottle  
Chenille stems  
Wiggle eyes  
Felt in various colors  
1 small brown pom-pom  
3-inch foam ball  
Scissors

Ask an adult to cut the foam ball in half. Insert half of the ball into the toe section of one of the socks, curved side up.

Cut the sock about 1-inch from the bottom of the ball. Glue to the underside of the ball. This is the top of your

puppet's head.

Glue or sew the head to the top of the other sock.

Place the sock over the bottom end of a water bottle before you start decorating.

Glue wiggle eyes and a pom-pom nose onto the puppet's head. Curl chenille stems and poke into the top of the foam ball for hair. Make ears out of felt and glue to the sides of the puppet's head. Glue felt pieces below the ball for a mouth.

Twist two stems together and glue to the back of the puppet for arms. Make hands of felt and glue onto the end of the stems.

Remove the sock puppet from the bottle when glue is dry.



## Riddle Card

1. Why does a baby pig eat so much?
2. What nation produces the most marriages?
3. When is a pig like ink?
4. What do we often catch yet never see?
5. Why is a lawyer like a crow?



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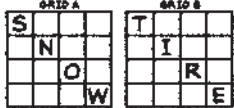
Answers: 1. To make a hog of himself. 2. Fascination. 3. When you put it in a pen. 4. A passing remark. 5. Because he likes to have his cause (cows) heard.

**DON'T GET SNOWED!** To solve this problem, replace the letters in the AlphaMath problem pictured with the digits 1 through 9, so that you have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits. See if you can get a higher total than we did.



**GET A GRIP ON THIS PUZZLE!** Pictured below are two puzzle grids for you to fill in. Hints are given for each word. The words in grid A contain the same letters as the corresponding words in grid B.

1. Like a chair.
2. A state of irritation.
3. Faster than a walk.
4. To start again.

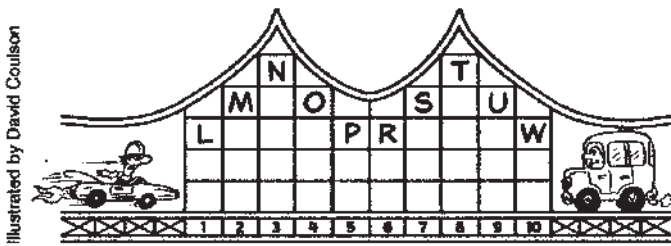


Answers: 1. Seat-leas. 2. Snit-lins. 3. Troc-tion. 4. Answ-ware.

## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

### A WORD BRIDGE



Illustrated by David Coulson

The bridge above contains 10 supporting words. We give you the first letter of each, plus plenty of hints.

1. A garland of flowers.
2. A tailless cat.
3. Sound of a horse.
4. To flow out slowly.
5. A type of nose shape.
6. Slang for marvelous.
7. A fortuneteller.
8. A female domestic cat.
9. Native American people.
10. A trap.

Answers: 1. Let. 2. Manx. 3. Neigh. 4. Ooze. 5. Fug. 6. Rad. 7. Seen. 8. Tabby. 9. Utes. 10. Web.

## Strange BUT TRUE

by Samantha Weaver

■ It was American author James Thurber who made the following sage observation: "Humor is emotional chaos remembered in tranquility."

■ If you're a fan of the original "Wizard of Oz" movie, you might be surprised to learn that the actress who played Glinda the Good Witch, Billie Burke, was 54 years old when the film was shot.

■ The award for the most needless war in history could very well go to Paraguay, whose president, Francisco Solano Lopez, believed himself to be an excellent tactician. He was a great admirer of Napoleon Bonaparte and wished to emulate the French emperor, but he had no wars to fight. To remedy the situation, in 1864 Lopez declared war on all three of his neighboring countries, Uruguay, Argentina and Brazil. His tactical abilities seem to have been of little use, however; it is estimated that 90 percent of Paraguay's male population was killed during the course of the war.

■ During this time of election madness, "misology" could be a useful word to know. It means "hatred of reason."

■ French novelist Marcel Proust's magnum opus, "Remembrance of Things Past," has been hailed as a literary masterpiece, but not everyone was a fan at first read. As Proust was trying, unsuccessfully, to find a publisher for his seven-volume work, one publisher said, "I may be dense, but I fail to see why a chap needs 30 pages to describe how he tosses and turns in bed before falling asleep." The author finally published the first volume with his own money; after the book was hailed as a masterpiece by critics, the same publishers who had rejected Proust competed for the opportunity to print the other six volumes of his work.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "Before I got married I had six theories about bringing up children; now I have six children and no theories." — John Wilmut

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## MAGIC MAZE • CARS WITH NAMES

I M K N E L L Y B E L L E I F  
G N A B G N A B D B T P E P E  
C E Z X W U S Q O S N L B J L  
H E N H F D C I A A Y W E V I  
R T I E L I B O M S E U L B B  
I S Q B R P T T I L L U B N O  
S L K I R A H C F E C B M Z M  
T T I K B E L E A N O R U Y T  
I W V L U S H L R Q P N B M A  
N L E J Y T U A E B K C A L B  
E M O T A M O T D E P I R T S

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions—forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Batmobile	Bumblebee	General Lee	Nellybelle
Black Beauty	Christine	Herbie	Pepe
Bluesmobile	Ecto-1	Kitt	Striped Tomato
Bullitt	Eleanor	Melba Toast	

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## GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

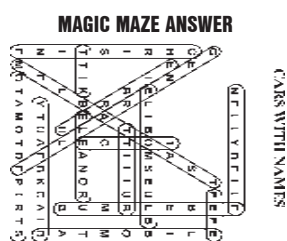
The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

**DIFFICULTY: ★★**

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult  
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	×		−		22			
+		−		÷				
	+		+		14			
÷		×		+				
	×		−		12			
4		14		15				
1	3	4	5	6	7	7	8	9

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**GO FIGURE ANSWER**

	15	14		4
	9	7	×	3
	+		×	÷
14	1	+	5	8
÷		−		+
22	6	7	×	4

## Dachshund's odd behavior

**DEAR PAW'S CORNER:** When we give my miniature Dachshund, "Peg," a chew treat, she takes it and walks all over the house crying. She will stop and "bury" it in different places, under a blanket or behind things, then pull it right back out and continue the process again and again for a while before she finally settles down and begins chewing it. We were wondering what is going on in her head that results in this behavior. —Curious Doxie Mom



a toy (cover it with a pillow, say) and have her find it. You can even go so far as to build a sandbox out back where she can bury and dig up toys during play times, under your supervision. Don't let her dig in other parts of the yard, though; if she starts that up, distract her and give her something else to do (like teaching basic obedience commands) or bring her back to the sandbox to dig.

**DEAR DOXY MOM:** Peg's behavior has all the earmarks of instinctive behaviors applied to a specific item (the chew treat). Dachshunds are notorious diggers—it's part of what they were originally bred for, as working dogs that would root out vermin like moles. So it's not too surprising that she does this with her chew toys. The crying seems like a way of announcing possession, like "hey, this is mine, I got it, check it out!" rather than distress.

If the behavior happens only at treat time and doesn't bother you or harm the furniture, it's up to you whether to let it continue. However, it sounds like Peg needs more stimulation in her life. Try playing games where you "bury"

Send your questions or tips to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. For more pet care-related advice and information, visit [www.pawscorner.com](http://www.pawscorner.com).

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## Play indoor hopscotch with carpet squares

**H**op, skip and jump onto your own hopscotch game everyone can play indoors using sample carpet squares. It's a great way to let out energy and get some exercise when the kids are cooped up on a rainy or snowy day. If you live near a carpet store, ask for discarded sample squares, which are usually free of charge. Choose samples that are approximately 10 inches by 12 inches in a variety of fun, playful colors. You'll need at least 10 for a standard game of hopscotch.

When you get home, cut rubber shelf liner into 10-inch squares the size of the carpet squares. Glue the shelf-liner pieces onto the backsides of the carpet squares to help keep the squares from slipping and skidding around as the kids jump.

Paint the numbers 1 through 10 on the tops of the squares using acrylic or latex paints. When dry, grab some flat stones for markers, and the kids will be ready and eager to play. Or, while the kids are waiting for the paint to dry, they can make their own personalized game markers. Cut out school pictures of each child who is going to play hopscotch, and glue the photos onto one side of a flat frozen-orange-juice lid with smooth sides. When it's time to play, toss it "face up" onto a square.

To play, set the squares on the floor in a hopscotch pattern, and hop away! Or invent your own games and encourage your kids to practice

## Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

their numbers while they play. Join in with the kids and enjoy one of the oldest and simplest children's games

around. Like playing jacks, you might quickly remember that you were either good at it and loved to play ... or not!

When the game is over, pick up the squares of this portable hopscotch and stack them neatly

in a cupboard or closet until another indoor play day.

Alternative idea: Instead of a portable hopscotch, tape the squares together on the backside in the formation you choose using duct tape.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit [www.donnasday.com](http://www.donnasday.com) and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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# Good Housekeeping

## Choosing a paint color sounds simple, but it's not

By **SUSAN REIMER**  
THE BALTIMORE SUN

**BALTIMORE**—They have been together for 10 years and they speak in the shorthand of couples who have grown comfortable with each other over time.

"There are just too many choices. When I get overwhelmed, I know I can call him," said Linda Forchheimer of Bel Air, Md.

"She knows what she likes and what she doesn't like," said Jim Ryan. "That's makes it so much easier than someone who can't decide what they like."

Ryan and Forchheimer, interior designer and homeowner, are choosing paint colors for a bedroom in her townhouse that she is converting to an office and a comfortable reading room.

He fans his paint samples the way a dealer might fan a deck of cards, and the two hit on a warm and appealing color combination in just a couple of minutes. They decide on "Dromedary Camel" for the walls and "Ivory Tusk" for the ceiling in less time than it might take them to order lunch.

"She used to stay up at night

and worry," said Ryan of Simply Grande Interiors in Forest Hill, Md. "Now I do it for her."

That's what homeowners need, designers agree: someone to take the worry out of choosing what color paint to use. It seems like such a simple decision. But when there are thousands of hues, picking just one, or two, can seem overwhelming.

"And you don't know what color it is going to be when it dries," said Ryan. "That, and people just don't trust themselves."

Ryan and his client were choosing paint and fabric for the empty room. They took their cue from the window treatments that would remain: a pair of cornices in an earthy, textured paisley and solid drapery panels in a brown/clay color that give the room a warm and clubby look. The central pieces of furniture will be a leather chair and fabric ottoman with accent pillows.

"The worst thing you can do is paint a room and then try to find furniture to match it," Ryan said, as he and Forchheimer sorted through fabric swatches.

Stephanie Besch Chase of Besch Designs, who lives and works in Alexandria, Va., and

Annapolis, Md., said that though paint is the easiest and cheapest element of design to change, people are still afraid to make a mistake. So they call her.

"People think they can't afford a designer," said Chase, who charges \$100 an hour. "But this is not an expensive thing."

Ryan charges \$150 for a one-hour paint consultation. "Sometimes I make my suggestions, and we never see each other again," he said. "Some people want to do this themselves, but they need a starting place."

Chase often works with young families who don't have a lot of money to spend. "But

they want their space to look nice, clean and well thought out. They tell me that they want it to look like they thought about it, that they tried to tie it together."

"Flow" is a popular concept in choosing paint colors, and one that homeowners find most difficult to master. If you are having trouble choosing paint for one room, choosing a group of colors that move seamlessly from

room to hall to room to foyer can make you feel like you need to take a nap first.

"You remember the '70s," said Ryan, "when every room had a different color carpet? It was like living in a patchwork quilt."

"Today, homeowners don't want to feel jolted when they move from room to room. And I think we are helping them accomplish that."

### For more resources on painting, check out these sites online:

- Paint Quality Institute, [paintquality.com](http://paintquality.com)
- Benjamin Moore's Personal Color Viewer, [benjaminmoore.com](http://benjaminmoore.com)
- Behr's Paint Your Place at [behr.com](http://behr.com)
- Martha Stewart paints at [HomeDepot.com](http://HomeDepot.com)'s Designing With Color page

## TIPS FOR PAINTING

**1. Know your walls.** Are they drywall or plaster? Plaster absorbs more paint and the color often changes.

**2. Fix the cracks.** Take the time to repair the walls. Make sure the surfaces are clean and dry.

**3. Try several samples.** Spend the money and the time to purchase sample sizes of the paint colors you are considering or different shades of the same color. Prime the walls and then apply a square foot of paint in several places in the room. Or paint pieces of poster board and tack them up around the room.

**4. Try the color near the trim.** Place the color patches near the trim because that is where the color will "pop." Check back during the day to see how the paint looks in different kinds of sunlight and at night to see how it looks in artificial light.

**5. Take time to prime.** Always prime the walls before painting. That ensures an even color. And don't start a new can of paint in the middle of a wall. Even the smallest difference may be noticeable.

**6. Splurge on the paint.** Don't skim on the paint quality, interior designer Stephanie Chase advises. Even in the same brand, the premium paint will be heavier and made with a different base. It is worth the extra \$10 or \$15 a can, she says.

**7. Powder rooms are for**

**experimenting.** A shiny surface is OK in the powder room, where anything goes. But use satin in high-traffic areas — it can be washed. Elsewhere, flat paint is best on walls; semi-gloss for trim.

**8. Paint should take a back seat.** In most rooms, the walls should recede and not steal the show from the furnishings. "The things in your house that you love should stand out. Not the paint," said Chase. The exception might be the dining room. "Since it is often used only for special occasions, it can be painted a dramatic color that will catch the eye of anyone passing by."

**9. Look up.** Every designer will tell you to paint the ceiling. "You don't give a gift in a box without a lid," said Jim Ryan. A soft yellow can make the room feel like it is filled with sunshine. A light blue will feel like it is open to the sky. When in doubt, just use a light version of the color on the walls. Crown molding will help separate the colors on the walls and the ceiling and give the room a formal look.

**10. Term limits for paint.** And finally, consider repainting every four years, Chase recommends. Trends come and go. Wear and tear will begin to show. And a fresh coat of paint is like a fresh start. "If you don't want to change the whole room, change one wall and make it an accent wall," said Chase. *(The Baltimore Sun)*

## In Loving Memory of †Felisa Ilano Chargualaf Basa

Also lovingly known as "Tan Felisa or Chicha"  
February 26, 1930 – February 5, 2012

Of Chalan Kanoa District #3, Saipan was called to her eternal rest  
on Sunday, February 5, 2012, at the age of 81.

In her new life she now joins her loved ones who have gone before her:

Husband:

Gregorio Blas Basa

Daughter:

Trinidad Basa Carlson

Sons:

Benjamin Paul Ch. Basa; Joseph Diego Ch. Basa

Son-in-law:

Richard Borja Cruz

Parents:

Jose Mafnas Chargualaf and Trinidad San Nicolas Ilano

Parents-in-law:

Jose Conception Basa and Dolores Torres Blas

Sisters/Brothers-in-laws:

Joaquin C. Chargualaf/Anna, Isidro C. Chargualaf/Maria, Emiliana Ch. Lizama/Vicente, Ana Ch. Villanueva/Tomas, Maria C. Demapan/Pedro, Rita C. Benavente/Juan, Vicenta C. Tudela/Roberto, Juan I. Cepeda/Victoria C., Vicente I. Cepeda/Nicolasa M., Luis I. Cepeda/Trinidad, Isabel Ch. Pangelinan/Vicente B., Francisca I. Chargualaf, Victoria Ch. Camacho/Lorenzo T., Virginia S. Chargualaf, Marcelina Ch. Santos/Saturnino Dlg., Margarita B. Villanueva/Joaquin P., Manuel S. Sablan, Herman Pangelinan, Bartola S. Basa

She will live in the hearts and memories of her children and their families:

†Trinidad B. and Tim Carlson: Ricky Clayton & Ani Clayton (Kai) and Jessica Clayton (Nicholas)

Elizabeth B. and Tony Barge: Jeff & Deborah Barge-Rodgers (Antonio & Harrison) and Steven Becker & Christina Barge (Elijah)

Dorothy B. and Robert Post: Jason & Arielle Post (Griffin & Peyton) and Jennifer & Steven Todd (Zachary & Emma)

Alvin Ch. Basa and Susan Grozek Basa: Brandon Basa, Nathan Basa, and Angela Dillon (Cy & Pyrrha)

Jessica Ch. Basa: Vera Basa & Robert Leto (AJ, JJ, & RJ), Anthony & Christina Magofna (Aphrodite & Aries), Benjamin Magofna, Jamila Magofna & Lushawm Reyes (LJ & Louis), Tisha Magofna, and Trinidad Magofna

Gregorio Ch. Basa and Consuelo P. Basa: Jonathan & Jocelyn Park (Princess & Dae-young), Emilisa Basa & Roy Norita, Jr. (Hu'nonnie), and Joseph Basa

†Joseph Diego Ch. Basa

†Benjamin Paul Ch. Basa and Leslie Basa: Joseph Dato-Basa

Lillian B. Cruz and Robert Borja Diaz: Thomas Basa & Leslie Pangelinan (Dylen, Tommy, & Tholeyan),

Felisha-Ann Basa (Richard), and Richard Cruz, Jr. & Ashley Castro (Rileyann)

Vivian B. and Larry LG Iriarte, Jr.: Tessiny Iriarte and Lorenzo LG Iriarte, III

Brother:

Domingo Ilano Chargualaf

Sisters and Brothers-in-law:

Maria Basa Sablan, Theresita Basa Pertudo and Leo O. Pertudo, and Jose Blas Basa.

She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

Daily Mass offered at 6:00am and Holy Rosary prayers at 8:00pm at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral, Saipan.

On Monday, February 13, 2012, she will be transferred from CHC Chapel at 7:00am; and shall be escorted to the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral followed by responso, rosary and viewing.

Eucharist/Celebration of Christian Burial will be at 11:00am followed by interment service at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

From Children, Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren and Family



# Life & Style

## Will Adele be the belle of the Grammy ball?

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY  
and MESFIN FEKADU  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Adele is the rare star who doesn't need multiple magazine covers, a cosmetics contract or a clothing line to sell albums. She does it all based on the strength of that sumptuous voice and those stirring songs.

That's a rarity in today's pop world, where artists are over-exposed and their music often comes second to what they're promoting in tandem with it.

Adele scored an unlikely critical and commercial triumph with "21," last year's best-selling album, all based off the artistry of songs like "Rolling in the Deep" and "Someone Like You." And she'll be richly rewarded come Sunday, when the Grammys hand out their trophies at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. While Kanye West is the lead nominee with seven, Adele, who's up for six, will be the act who dominates—well, at least that's what WE think.

Here's how the AP predicts the trophies will shake out Grammy night.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

**ALBUM OF THE YEAR:** "21," Adele; "Wasting Light," Foo Fighters; "Born This Way," Lady Gaga; "Doo-Wops & Hooligans," Bruno Mars; "Loud," Rihanna.

**MOODY:** The Grammys are famous for ignoring the shoo-in for some underdog in the top category, leading to a big shocker. That's just not gonna happen this year, though. None of these other albums can really even make the critical argument that they're better than "21," Adele's phenomenal and phenomenally

successful album. This will be the topper on Adele's coronation on Grammy night.

**FEKADU:** So let's talk about who definitely won't win: Sorry Gaga, Bruno and Rih Rih. Foo Fighters, who strongly represent rock 'n' roll in a pop/dance-dominated music world, has a chance. Well, no they don't. In one year Adele's "21" has sold more than six million copies and changed many lives, and I'm sure some of those people are members of The Recording Academy. She better give her ex a shout-out in her victory speech!

**RECORD OF THE YEAR:** "Rolling In the Deep," Adele; "Holocene," Bon Iver; "Grenade," Bruno Mars; "The Cave," Mumford & Sons; "Firework," Katy Perry.

**FEKADU:** The real competition here is between Adele and Mumford & Sons—whose songs are the best two of the bunch. But Adele not only had the record of the year, she had the best voice of the year, the best live performance of the year and the best everything of the year. She even had (one of the) best styles of the year (all black works, man!) If she doesn't win, I sure hope Kanye West jumps onstage and yells: "Adele had the best record of all-time. OF ALL-TIME!"

**MOODY:** Technically Adele has competition in this category, but really folks? None. As big as "Grenade" and "Firework" were, they are no match for Adele's smoldering performance, and Mumford & Sons and Bon Iver should split the bearded-hipster-indie cred vote. Adele takes home the trophy.

**SONG OF THE YEAR (songwriters):** "All of the

Lights," Jeff Bhasker, Stacy Ferguson, Malik Jones, Warren Trotter & Kanye West; "The Cave," Ted Dwane, Ben Lovett, Marcus Mumford & Country Winston; "Grenade," Brody Brown, Claude Kelly, Philip Lawrence, Ari Levine, Bruno Mars & Andrew Wyatt; "Holocene," Justin Vernon; "Rolling In the Deep," Adele Adkins & Paul Epworth.

**MOODY:** Vernon is the only one to write a song without any help in this category, but as hauntingly beautiful as "Holocene" is, it's a little too obscure to really win here. "Rolling in the Deep" would be the obvious choice—a little too obvious, perhaps. It's a risk, but I'm betting that Grammy voters finally give Kanye a little love after wrongly dissing him for album of the year—just when he's starting not to care anymore.

**FEKADU:** She's wrong. I'm a Kanye supporter—well sometimes I am—but he shouldn't win this for a number of reasons. No. 1, "All of the Lights" should NOT be the first rap song to earn this award. No. 2, the song is catchy, but is it great enough to be nominated here? He should have won this honor years ago for "Jesus Walks." But, Halle Berry did win the Oscar for "Monster's Ball" instead of "Losing Isaiah." OK, back to the music. Oh yeah, this will be going to Mumford & Sons.

**NEW ARTIST:** The Band Perry; Bon Iver; J. Cole; Nicki Minaj; Skrillex.

**FEKADU:** It's nice to see an electronic artist like Skrillex here, but he won't win. J. Cole's votes won't match those for Minaj. If Barbies could vote, Minaj would have a better shot. So it's down to critical indie group

Bon Iver and The Band Perry, who have won so many music honors from all 10,000 of those awards shows for country music. I guess that means they'll win here, too.

**MOODY:** Skrillex is probably the least known act, but like Mesfin says, he won't pull off an Esperanza Spalding-type upset this year. Bon Iver is the indie choice but did anyone really listen to that album outside of the Pitchfork-set? J. Cole is too new, so that leaves us with a battle between Nicki Minaj and The Band Perry. As super-hot as Minaj is, I'm guessing Grammy voters will choose the musician-ship of the sibling trio, who also had great commercial success with "If I Die Young," making them the balanced choice.

**POP VOCAL PERFORMANCE:** "Someone Like You," Adele; "You and I," Lady Gaga; "Grenade," Bruno Mars; "Firework," Katy Perry; "(Ex-pletive) Perfect," Pink.

**MOODY:** This marks the first year that the men and women are duking it out for vocal performance, and judging by the list of nominees, Grammy voters aren't too impressed with male vocals this year. So despite his nomination, Mars won't likely win this battle with the ladies. Out of the girl-power clique, no one really has the power of Adele (though Pink comes close). Combine that with the heartbreaking emotion that she conveys, and you've got your winner. Adele, yet again.

**FEKADU:** What she said.  
**ROCK SONG:** "The Cave," Mumford & Sons (Ted Dwane, Ben Lovett, Marcus Mumford & Country Winston); "Down By the Water," The Decemberists

In this Feb. 15, 2011 file photo, Adele performs on stage during the Brit Awards 2011, at The O2 Arena in London. Adele, who had surgery on her vocal cords last year, will perform at the Grammys on Feb. 12, 2012.



(Colin Meloy); "Every Teardrop Is a Waterfall," Coldplay (Guy Berryman, Jonny Buckland, Will Champion & Chris Martin); "Lotus Flower," Radiohead (Colin Greenwood, Jonny Greenwood, Ed O'Brien, Phil Selway & Thom Yorke); "Walk," Foo Fighters (Foo Fighters).

**FEKADU:** Last year, Mumford & Sons didn't win best new artist or best rock song. Grammy voters didn't know how deserving the band was then, but they won't make that mistake again. Congrats boys on your Grammy win!

**MOODY:** Don't start building that trophy case just yet, boys. Mumford & Sons are still a little too new and a little too indie for Grammy voters to embrace (besides, they'd split the indie vote with the kings of that genre, Radiohead). The Foo Fighters had one of the top rock albums of the year and Grohl and Co. are veterans who are still rocking—and the Grammys love survivors. And that's why the Foos will win here.

**R&B ALBUM:** "F.A.M.E.," Chris Brown; "Second Chance," El DeBarge; "Love Letter," R. Kelly; "Pieces of Me," Ledisi; "Kelly," Kelly Price.

**MOODY:** DeBarge's "Second Chance" has nothing on the second chance that Brown has been enjoying. The fact that he's nominated shows that Grammy voters don't hold a grudge for that Rihanna attack three years ago, and his comeback after being labeled the ogre of the music world has surely won over many former critics. Look for Brown's continued redemption with a win.

**FEKADU:** I'm not even going to pick any of these albums. I'm still upset Beyonce's "4" isn't nominated here. (OK, I have a bet with Nekesa so for strategy, I'll also go with "F.A.M.E." And if this is one of the awards to make the live telecast, be ready to see Chris Breezy cry, again!)

**RAP/SUNG COLLABORATION:** "Party," Beyonce and

Andre 3000; "I'm On One," DJ Khaled, Drake, Rick Ross & Lil Wayne; "I Need a Doctor," Dr. Dre, Eminem & Skylar Grey; "What's My Name?," Rihanna & Drake; "Motivation," Kelly Rowland & Lil Wayne; "All of the Lights," Kanye West, Rihanna, Kid Cudi & Fergie.

**FEKADU:** I wish Kelly Rowland and Lil Wayne would win for "Motivation," one of last year's best songs. Or "I'm On One," which could give DJ Khaled, Drake and Rick Ross their first Grammy wins. But that isn't likely. Look for Kanye, the rapper with the most Grammys (14 and counting), to get the win for "All of the Lights," which is also up for song of the year.

**MOODY:** It's hard to compete against a song that even featured Sir Elton John in the mix. For as much as people love to hate on Kanye, Grammy voters love him when it comes to the rap categories. No need for a West hissy-fit here—he'll take the award, thank you.

**COUNTRY ALBUM:** "My Kinda Party," Jason Aldean; "Chief," Eric Church; "Own the Night," Lady Antebellum; "Red River Blue," Blake Shelton; "Here for a Good Time," George Strait; "Speak Now," Taylor Swift.

**MOODY:** Swift was robbed by not getting a nomination in the general album category; she's probably already written a searing acoustic-guitar ditty about the snub for the new album. But maybe she won't publish it if Grammy voters do right by her in the country category. Chances are she won't be singing about Grammy blues after Sunday night.

**FEKADU:** Lady Antebellum won the coveted album of the year trophy last year and Swift the year before. But their follow-ups clearly weren't as good, according to Grammy voters. Now these country acts know how the rappers feel! Jason Aldean, though, had a tremendous year, and he deserves—and will—win this honor. Now cue up that new, angry Swift song!

*In Humble Gratitude*

*During these moments of great loss and deep pain, we thank God for the relatives and friends like you, who have stood by and supported us.*

*Your sincere efforts have helped us through a very difficult time.*

*We the family of the late*  
**+ Jose Torres Cabrera**  
*Wish to extend*

*Un Dangkulo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase for all the kindness, prayers and grace that you have shared.*

*You will be remembered in our thoughts and prayers.*

*Felicidad M. Cabrera and Family*



# Oscar lands in Los Angeles after Chicago flight

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Passengers on United Airlines Flight 531 from Chicago to Los Angeles didn't just get to travel with a world-famous celebrity, they also had their picture taken with him.

The affable celebrity was Oscar—as in the Academy Awards statuette—who rode in first class alongside film academy president Tom Sherak before making the rounds during the five-hour commercial flight to pose for photos.

Sherak surprised passengers just before they boarded the flight, dubbed “Oscar 1,” at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. He arrived with the Oscar in hand and announced that the famous golden guy would be flying with them.

Actually, there were two Oscars in the cabin on the Thursday flight. And not just any Oscars. These guys will be presented for best picture at this year's Academy Awards.

Passengers used cellphones and pocket cameras to snap photos with the Oscars as airline workers held a show-related trivia contest, awarding hoodies and hats from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

“This is the closest I'm ever going to be to having one, so I'm enjoying it,” Rockford Yapp, of Chicago, said as he held the coveted trophy. The 52-year-old also won an Oscar sweatshirt because he was sitting in the 84th seat on the plane. The 84th annual Academy Awards will be presented Feb. 26 at the Kodak Theatre and



An Oscar statue waits as Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences president Tom Sherak goes through security before boarding “Oscar One” heading to Los Angeles for the Academy Awards ceremony, at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago Thursday, Feb. 9, 2012.

broadcast on ABC.

“My kids are going to be so excited!” Heather Boyd, of Chicago, said as she reviewed her shots on her cellphone. “The pictures are going on Facebook as soon as I get on the ground.”

Several passengers uploaded the photos to Facebook immediately upon landing.

“We're staying in Studio City

and I was just hoping to see someone from ‘American Idol,’” said a thrilled Joan Castell of Woodstock, Ill., who was heading west with her husband, Scott, for a vacation.

“I think United should do something entertaining like this on all their flights,” he said.

A flight attendant called the occasion a “once-in-a-lifetime

opportunity” as she invited passengers to enjoy “the flight of the Oscars.”

Sherak said this is the first time Oscars have flown commercially out in the open. The statuettes, which have been made at Chicago's R.S. Owens foundry for more than 70 years, are typically shipped to Los Angeles with little fanfare.

So why have Oscar mix it up with passengers?

“Just for fun,” Sherak said.

The pilot even allowed an Oscar into the cockpit of the 757 before takeoff, calling the statuette his most prestigious “non-human” passenger yet.

“It's a special treat. We want everyone to enjoy the flight and enjoy the show,” said Capt. Mel Mason Jr.

Nearly everyone on board held one of the Oscars, and the 13 1/2-inch tall statuette surprised them with his heft. Made of a proprietary metal called brittanium and coated in 24-karat gold, Oscar weighs 8 1/2-pounds.

Altogether, Sherak was escorting 42 of the trophies back to academy headquarters in Beverly Hills, Calif., but only two rode in the cabin. The rest had to tough it out in cargo.

The Oscar celebration continued at Los Angeles International Airport. Gold and silver balloons and oversized Oscar posters decorated the arrival gate. As passengers left the plane, each was given an Oscar of their own—a tiny, chocolate version.

“United Airlines announces the arrival of the 84th Academy Awards Oscars,” a voice said over the loudspeaker as Sherak followed the throng of passengers.

“He's home!” proclaimed Sherak, holding a statuette above his head.

## Sarah Jessica Parker headlines celeb-filled gala

**NEW YORK (AP)**—A chance to kiss the buff, shirtless Richard Gere of the early '80s? Sold, for \$20,000!

It wasn't exactly a time machine that was auctioned off at the annual amfAR AIDS charity gala kicking off New York Fashion Week on Wednesday evening. Rather, it was a black-and-white portrait of Gere by famed photographer Robert Mapplethorpe, who himself died of AIDS in 1989. Displaying the photo from the stage, cookbook author and TV personality Padma Lakshmi kissed it a few times to demonstrate its appeal.

The gala, held in the cavernous event space at Cipriani Wall

Street, is a staple event on the fringes of New York Fashion Week. This year, it was hosted by Sarah Jessica Parker, and featured performances by Brooklyn rapper Theophilus London, R&B singer Janelle Monae, and opera singer Michelle Johnson, who sang in tribute to the late Elizabeth Taylor—founder of the AIDS charity.

But whatever was happening onstage, it was at least as interesting to stargaze among the guests, an eclectic mix of fashion, Hollywood, music and medicine. Fashion luminaries included designer Kenneth Cole, “Project Runway” host Heidi Klum (and judge Nina Garcia), Linda Evan-

gelista and Cindy Crawford, who presented an award to Italian designer Roberto Cavalli.

Actress Julianne Moore was there, as was Stanley Tucci and director Woody Allen, seated between his wife and Mathilde Krim, founding chairman of the American Foundation for AIDS Research, or amfAR. Actress-singer Jennifer Hudson grooved to Monae's performance. Lindsay Lohan showed up in a demure, long-sleeved white dress.

The event raised more than \$1.4 million for AIDS research, the group said. Other honorees, besides Cavalli, were Chopard co-president Caroline Scheufele, and Goldman Sachs Gives.

## Uggie, ‘War Horse’ among Pawscar award winners

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—The Oscars aren't until Feb. 26, but winners of the Pawscars are already celebrating.

The American Humane Association, which advocates for animals on film and TV sets, announced the top animals Thursday being honored with Pawscar awards.

Uggie, the four-legged star

of “The Artist,” was named best scene stealer. Fellow Jack Russell terrier Cosmo, whose thoughts were communicated through subtitles in “Beginners,” won best animal speaking role.

“War Horse” was recognized for “best perception versus reality” for a scene that shows the title horse becoming entangled

in barbed wire that was actually made from soft rubber.

Other winners include “Dolphin Tale,” “We Bought a Zoo” and “Mr. Popper's Penguins.”

The Pawscars are among an emerging breed of awards honoring animal actors. The Golden Collar dog awards will be presented next week.

## Mom's ‘wonderful’ fiance appears not to be trusted

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** I am 11. My mom is engaged to a man who I think is a wonderful person, but she always questions whether he's cheating on her. She's 37. Personally, I think she won't get another chance like this. Their wedding has been postponed three times because she thinks he's lying to her.



I don't think she realizes what she's got. When I ask her if everything is OK between them, she says, “Everything is fine, and if it wasn't, it would be too complicated for you to understand.” I just want them to live happily together. What should I do?

OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW IN ALABAMA

**DEAR OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW:** You may be old enough to know, but if your mom doesn't feel comfortable sharing certain personal information with you, that should be her privilege. Her suspicions may be the result of having been hurt in past relationships, or she may have caught her fiance being less than truthful at some point.

Your mother should not marry ANYONE—regardless of how great a catch he may seem to you—unless she is certain she can trust him. The fact that their wedding has been postponed three times sends me a message that she thinks she has reason for concern in that department.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm 16 and want to have my ear pierced a second time. Despite my mother's reluctance, she took me to get my ears pierced when I was 9. My friends have all gotten multiple ear piercings. All I want is to get the cartilage on my right ear pierced, but Mom and Dad refuse.

Mom says that any piercing other than one in each ear looks “trashy” and people will think unfavorably of me. I don't see the big deal. It's not like I want my nose or navel pierced. I just want one little stud, and I'd pay for it myself.

I'm a respectful and honest girl. I have always brought home good grades. Mom says I'll have to wait until I'm 18 and out of her house. I don't understand why she won't let me get this done. My best friend's mother, who is stricter than mine, let her get her cartilage pierced. What do you think?

NOT ASKING FOR MUCH IN ILLINOIS

**DEAR NOT ASKING FOR MUCH:** I think that as a minor living in your parents' house, you should obey their rules. If you want to get multiple piercings in your ears when you're 18 and on your own, the choice will be yours. But until then, respect your mother's wishes. “Because everyone else is doing it” is not a valid reason for doing anything.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I enjoy theater very much, but can't afford to attend all the performances I would like, so I work at my local theater every week. In exchange, I am “paid” in tickets. The ticket prices are generally \$60 and up, so it's a win/win for both the theater and for me.

My question is, when I invite a friend to use the extra ticket, is it unreasonable to expect him or her to drive and pay for the treat at intermission? The ticket was not “free” to me—I worked for it. Or, because I issued the invitation, am I responsible for the entire evening?

THEATER LOVER IN ATLANTA

**DEAR THEATER LOVER:** If you're treating someone to an evening at the theater, it would certainly be gracious of your guest to offer to reciprocate in some way. However, because your friends don't have ESP, this is a subject you should raise at the time you issue the invitation.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in “What Every Teen Should Know.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

## LA police search for escapee who stalked Madonna

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Police are asking for the public's help in locating a man who was convicted of threatening to kill Madonna and walked away from a Los Angeles-area mental hospital last week.

Los Angeles police say Robert Dewey Hoskins left the state hospital Friday. He had been committed there last year.

Hoskins, 54, is “highly psychotic” and can be extremely violent and should not be approached by members of the public, police said in a news release Thursday. They urged anyone who sees him to call authorities immediately.

Hoskins served a 10-year prison sentence for stalking and threatening Madonna after being convicted by a jury in 1996. The singer reluctantly testified against the man, who was shot by her personal security after he jumped the fence of her Hollywood Hills home.

Court records show he was convicted of vandalism in July 2011.

Police say they have searched areas where Hoskins may try to go, including the city of Long Beach south of Los Angeles, but they have been unable to find him.



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



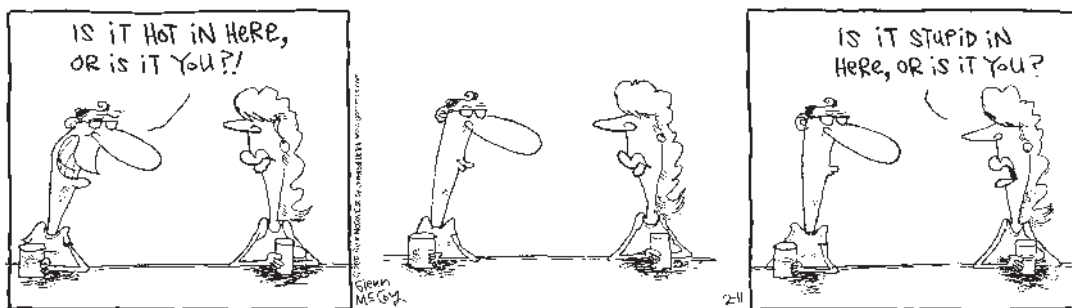
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

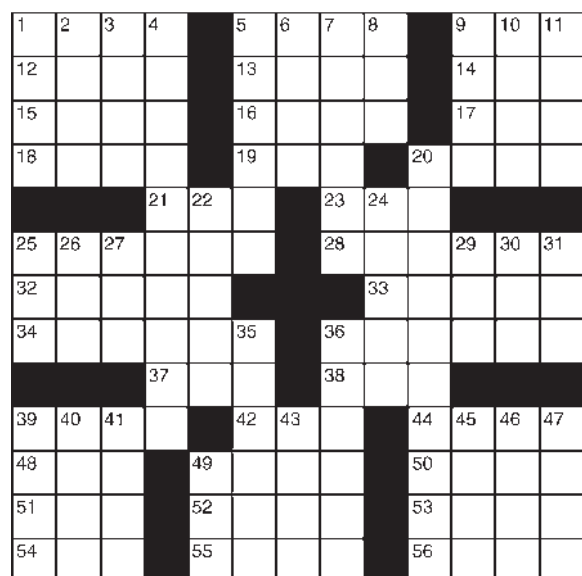
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Tries the tea
  - 5 Zoo structure
  - 9 Curvy letter
  - 12 Had on
  - 13 Malaria symptom
  - 14 "What's up, —?"
  - 15 MPs' quarry
  - 16 Dilbert's furniture
  - 17 Equal (Pref.)
  - 18 Large iron hook
  - 19 "Guinness Book" suffix
  - 20 Pack away
  - 21 Solidify
  - 23 Shock partner
  - 25 Seasonal store staff
  - 28 Loudness
  - 32 Agrees to
  - 33 Butchers' discard
  - 34 Alternatives to booths
- DOWN**
- 1 Booty
  - 2 "The Music Man" setting
  - 3 College lecturer, maybe
  - 4 Based on one's own claim
  - 5 West Pointers
  - 6 Census information
  - 7 Mahler or Klimt
  - 8 "A mouse!"
  - 9 Rewrite, maybe
  - 10 Mediocre
  - 11 Garbage barge
  - 20 Learned without help
  - 22 Arts supporter
  - 24 Romantic hopeful
  - 25 Drunkard
  - 26 Alias abbr.
  - 27 Apprehend
  - 29 Venusian vessel?
  - 30 Chinese chairman
  - 31 Wapiti
  - 35 Lipstick mark, e.g.
  - 36 Holenlarging tool
  - 39 Lofty
  - 40 Always
  - 41 Caustic compounds
  - 43 Poet
  - 45 Teasdale
  - 46 Black (Fr.)
  - 47 Newspaper page
  - 49 A billion years

Solution time: 27 mins.



Yesterday's answer 2-11



## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Taylor Lautner, 20; Kelly Rowland, 31; Jennifer Aniston, 43; Sheryl Crow, 50.

**Happy Birthday:** Let your emotions lead you in the most humanitarian direction. Reacting honestly and with compassion for those around you will win you the favors or help you need. You are more gifted than you realize, and recognizing your true potential will help take you down a path that offers plenty in return. Your numbers are 9, 11, 22, 25, 32, 41, 48.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Make a clean sweep, get rid of the things you no longer need and start fresh. It's liberating to let go as well as to help those in need. Recycle, pay it forward and remove anything from your life that drags you down. \*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Pump up your tempo, pursue your goals and make things happen. Visit someone special or look for information that will help you make a decision regarding your lifestyle or beliefs. Question anyone who challenges you. \*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Look, and the picture will become quite clear. Base your actions on fact. Socialize with people who are capable of contributing to your life. It's time to alter whatever stands between you and your desires. \*\*\*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Don't let love dictate. Avoid entrapment that goes against your beliefs. A power play is best dealt with verbally, if you want to win. Choose your battles wisely and handle your situations

with integrity and finesse. \*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** You've got what it takes. Step into the spotlight and share your thoughts. You'll be surprised how many will stop to listen to what you have to say. Invest in you and what you have to offer, and so will others. \*\*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Time heals all wounds. Express your thoughts and reach deep into your subconscious for puzzles that were left unsolved. Facing the truth and dealing with the past will clear a passage to the future. What failed in the past can work now. \*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Put your thoughts on paper or share your intentions with your peers. A well-thought-out plan can turn into a lucrative venture. A change in one of your important relationships will give you food for thought and a different perspective regarding your future. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Stand up and fight back. Don't let anyone bully you into doing without something that is owed to you. Use new methods to get what you want. Your tact will change the way others treat you. \*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Look and listen. What you discover now will serve you well in future business. Avoid taking a risk that may lead to injury or an argument. Love is in the stars, and making last-minute plans will make your love life exciting. \*\*\*\*

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Bide your time. Let others make the first move. Weigh the pros and cons of your situation. Anticipate the unexpected, and be ready to change your plans if necessary. When one door closes, another will open. \*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** There is plenty that can be resolved if you face problems head-on. Your ability to size up situations and intuitively react will give you the edge you need to win any challenge you face. Love is in the stars. \*\*\*\*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Talk over an idea, plan or project you want to pursue. Keeping things out in the open will allow you to find out who you are best suited to work alongside and what everyone can contribute in order to ensure your success. \*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are clever, capable and caring. You are not afraid to stand alone.

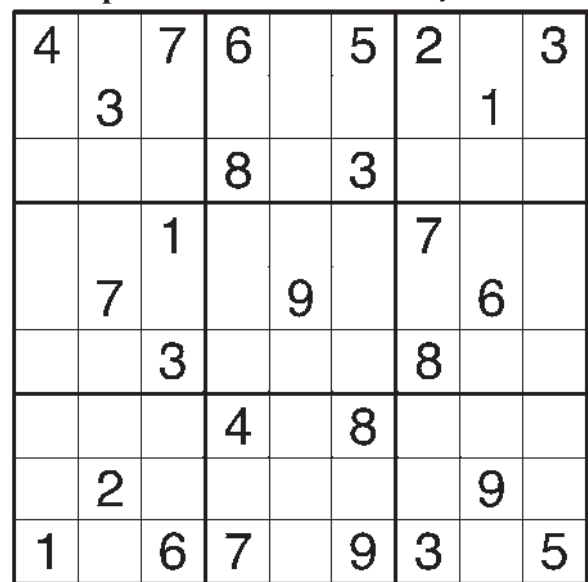
**Birthday Baby:** You are a creative dreamer with a vivid imagination and stellar ideas.

Eugenia's Web sites: [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations, [myspace.com/eugenialast](http://myspace.com/eugenialast) for Eugenia's blog, [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



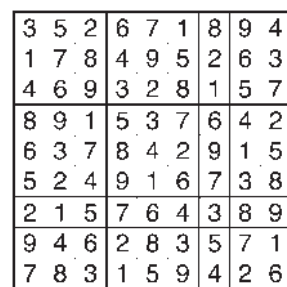
Difficulty Level ★★★★★

2/11

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

2/11

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BOMBS AWAY! (BAD MOVIES)

Solution: 7 letters



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Agent, Alone, Barbarian, Catwoman, Claw, Combat, Creeping, Dance, Dead, Deathstalker, Dinosaur, Doomsday, Double, Eegah, Evil, Fair, Forbidden, Game, Giant, Gigli, Girls, Hackers, Heavens, Hobgoblins, Inchon, Lady, Last, Lonely, Machine, Mortuary, North, Phantasm, Plan, Postman, Queen, Read, Runaway, Terror, Troll Two, Virtual, Wish

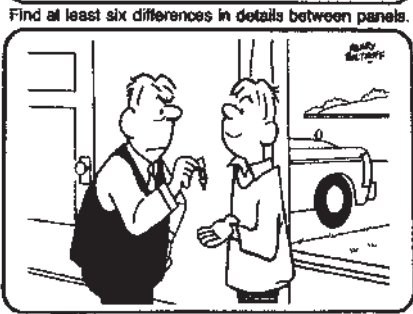
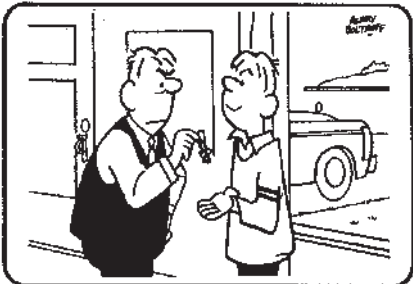
Yesterday's Answer: Keyboards

Trace THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD Volume 24, 25, 26, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33 or 34 and 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINGOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.  
Differences: 1. Tire is black. 2. Shirts have been added. 3. Dumbbell has no strings. 4. One key is missing. 5. Dumbbell is different. 6. Well is bare.

Wishing Well®

5	2	4	8	3	5	4	7	2	4	8	6	8
W	B	P	F	Y	I	A	C	E	T	A	S	M
5	7	6	2	6	3	2	3	5	8	5	6	2
S	H	K	A	I	O	D	U	H	E	S	P	V
3	6	7	5	4	7	3	5	2	8	5	7	4
G	N	E	O	I	E	A	M	E	I	E	R	E
3	6	2	3	4	2	6	4	2	3	7	2	4
I	O	N	N	T	T	C	U	R	F	R	E	
5	8	6	5	2	8	7	2	5	4	5	6	7
O	S	H	N	O	Y	U	U	E	R	W	I	L
5	3	6	4	5	4	5	7	6	8	3	2	7
E	E	N	E	L	W	L	D	G	O	S	S	A
7	7	8	4	8	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4
U	Y	R	A	S	P	R	E	D	C	E	T	D

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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Super Crossword

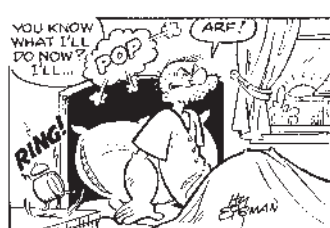
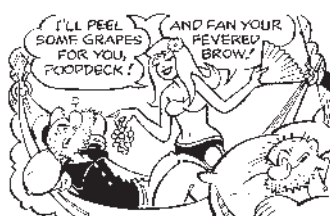
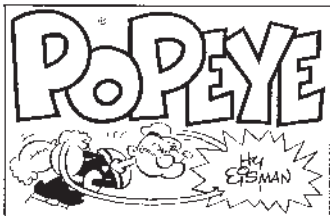
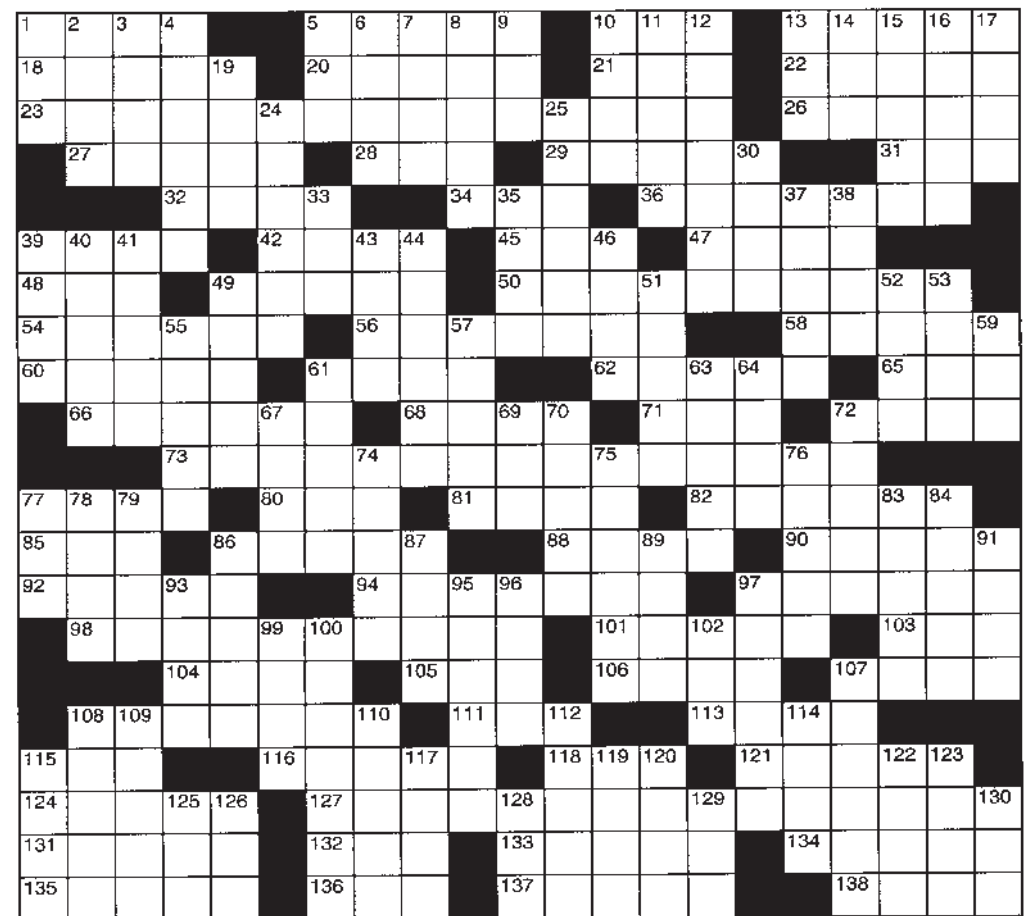
FINISH LINE

ACROSS

- 1 Thieves
- 5 Dress down
- 10 Accomplished
- 13 English explorer
- 18 French spa
- 20 Home on high
- 21 A mean Amin
- 22 "Pygmalion" role
- 23 Start of a remark by Gene Perret
- 26 On the up and up
- 27 Director Sergio
- 28 Grazing ground
- 29 Overact
- 31 Have a mortgage
- 32 Become engaged?
- 34 EMT's skill
- 36 "La Boheme" girl
- 39 Depravity
- 42 Heavy metal instrument?
- 45 Mellow
- 47 Rajasthani rhythm
- 48 Coach
- 49 Kayak commander
- 50 Part 2 of remark
- 54 Verbal explosion
- 56 Pittsburgh player
- 58 Skirt feature
- 60 Tangle
- 61 "May I interrupt?"
- 62 Vision
- 65 Cookbook phrase
- 66 Impressive lobby
- 68 Catches cod
- 71 Runner Sebastian
- 72 Karras or Haley
- 73 Part 3 of remark
- 77 Suggestive
- 80 — Na Na
- 81 Beloved
- 82 Type of aircraft
- 85 Maestro de Waart
- 86 Fusillade
- 88 Khartoum's river
- 90 Hopeless case
- 92 Jeeves or Passe-partout
- 94 Focused
- 97 Watchful city?
- 98 Part 4 of remark
- 101 Perfect
- 103 One of the Marches
- 104 Anesthetize
- 105 Fitting
- 106 Manuscript enc.
- 107 Goofy Gomer
- 108 Field event
- 111 "— the fields we go . . ."
- 113 Ballet movement
- 115 Overwhelm
- 116 Recruit personnel
- 118 Good times
- 121 Sari site
- 124 Rent
- 127 End of remark
- 131 Party present
- 132 Myriads of moons
- 133 "Midnight at the —" ('74 hit)
- 134 "— Gay"
- 135 Fight site
- 136 Room for relaxing
- 137 Marine leader?
- 138 Hardware item

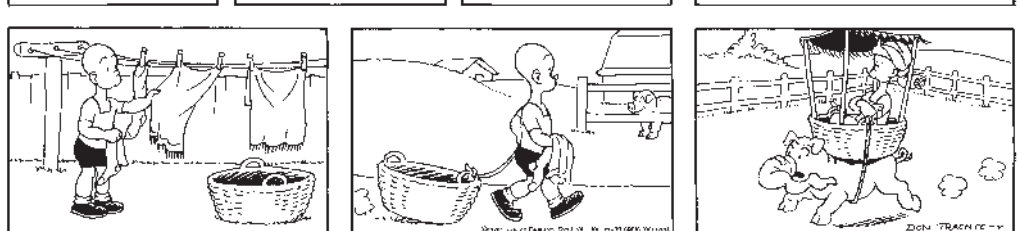
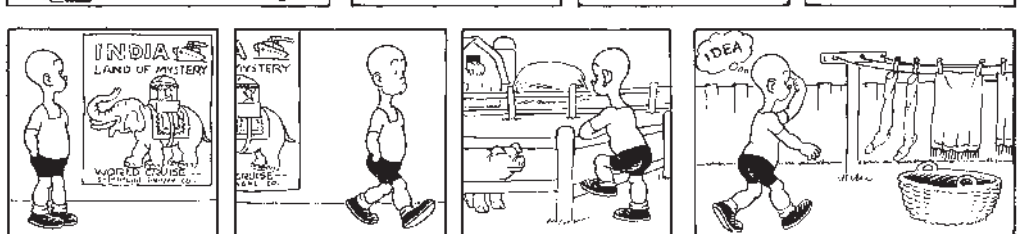
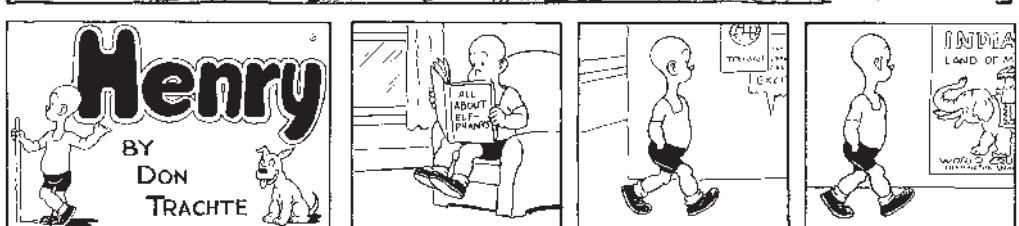
DOWN

- 1 Sports official
- 2 Face shape
- 3 Ill temper
- 4 She knew how to get a head
- 5 Droop
- 6 Do overhead plastering
- 7 Sarah — Jewett
- 8 Pale purple
- 9 "— volente"
- 10 "Carpe —"
- 11 Turn of phrase
- 12 Bother
- 13 "Fantasia" frame
- 14 Fish-and-chips accompaniment
- 15 Chauvinist
- 16 Conductor Seiji
- 17 Yarn
- 19 Muse count
- 24 Snuggle up
- 25 "The Aeneid" author
- 30 Jacob's twin
- 33 Tint
- 35 "— Rider" ('85 film)
- 37 Neighbor of Libya
- 38 Kite part
- 39 Places to dye
- 40 One of "The Three Sisters"
- 41 Jeweler's weight
- 43 41st or 43rd President
- 44 Be there
- 46 Gets by, with "out"
- 49 Impromptu
- 51 Author Jong
- 52 Patricia of "Hud"
- 53 Wild wind
- 55 Deck out
- 57 Edit a text
- 59 Duty
- 61 Menotti title character
- 63 Have thirds and fourths?
- 64 Cure
- 67 — Minor
- 69 Peg for Palmer
- 70 Footballer Lynn
- 72 Option
- 74 Maritime abbr.
- 75 Turning point
- 76 Actor Bruce
- 77 Part of IRS
- 78 Eliot's "— Bede"
- 79 Fountain order
- 83 Foe
- 84 Party hearty
- 86 Walk like a rooster
- 87 Recruit-to-be
- 89 Helen of Troy's mom
- 91 Wrath
- 93 Cubist Rubik?
- 95 Warning
- 96 Tivoli's Villa d'—
- 97 Ancient tongue
- 99 Little devils
- 100 Bordered on
- 102 Kreskin's letters
- 107 Know-it-all
- 108 Vow
- 109 Throw forcefully
- 110 Resort lake
- 112 Bucolic
- 114 Memo start
- 115 — Romeo
- 117 Actress Sherilyn
- 119 "Yo!" at the library
- 120 Move a bit
- 122 "Blame — the Bossa Nova" ('63 hit)
- 123 Bill of Rights grp.
- 125 Every guy is one
- 126 Cy Young stat
- 128 Debtor's letters
- 129 Govt. agency
- 130 Beaver or beret



They'll Do It Every Time

by Al Scaduto



Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. TELEVISION: What was the theme song of "The Mary Tyler Moore Show"?
2. MUSIC: What rock group was featured in the documentary "The Kids Are Alright"?
3. MYTHOLOGY: In Norse mythology, who were the Norns?
4. MOVIES: Actress Shirley Ma-

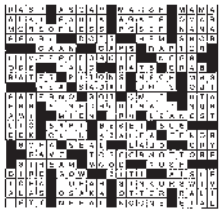
- cLaine played a nun in which movie?
5. CARTOONS: What were the names of Daisy Duck's nieces?
6. MEDICINE: Who discovered that yellow fever was transmitted by mosquitoes?

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7. LITERATURE: What was the first novel written by Raymond Chandler?
8. AD SLOGANS: What company advised motorists to "trust your car to the star"?
9. ANATOMY: What is a human

- being's normal body temperature in Celsius?
10. GEOGRAPHY: The tiny principality of Andorra borders which two European countries?

Saturday's Answers

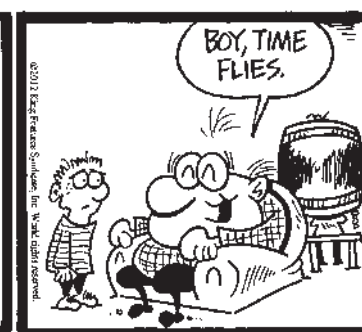


Answers

1. "Love Is All Around"
2. The Who
3. Norse goddesses of fate
4. "Two Mules for Sister Sara"
5. April, May and June
6. Dr. Walter Reed
7. "The Big Sleep"
8. Texaco
9. 37
10. Spain and France

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering





# CLASSIFIED ADS



## CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

### CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

### ADVERTISING DEADLINE

#### Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:  
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

### CANCELLATION

#### Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

### CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

### ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

#### EMPLOYMENT

1-Sales Representative. 6 months experience in direct selling of fish required. Minimum salary. Send your resume to SMJ Corporation, P.O. Box 503944 Saipan MP 96950

O2 Scuba & Resort, Inc. is looking for (1) Scuba Diving Instructor: \$5.05/hr. College degree & scuba diving instructor license required. Korean language speaking fluency required. (1) Cook (Japanese Cuisine): \$5.05/hr. High school diploma and at least 1 yr of professional cooking experience in Japanese cuisine required. Email resume to o2scuba@hanmi-saipan.com. Tel: 322-0102

#### WANTED TO BUY

Need cash fast??? We want to buy your OnePass miles or Skymiles!!! Call 888-2205.

#### FOR SALE

12pcs Round Bar/Restaurant Tables at \$25 each OBO . Call or Text Rose at 788-3913 for more info.

#### WANTED TO RENT

Looking for 2bedroom apartment/condo. Furnished. \$200–500 month. Utilities preferably in rent but not necessary. Email wgrow@vt.edu or call 286-1809.

#### WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used cars. Year 2003 & up. 4 cylinder, Good condition. We pay cash! Pls. call 287-7676

#### FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

2 Bedroom Apartment for Rent. For \$200.00 / month. Koblerville, please call 288-0728.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

#### FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

WHATZIT Solution: Enemy of the State

## CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

**AMBASSADOR OF AUSTRALIA IN POHNPEI**

**POSITION VACANT**



**Housekeeper/Cook**

**Skills:**

- Oversee all household and representational catering for the Ambassador and/or the Ambassador's Official Residence
- Monitor and maintain food, beverage and other household supplies at the Residence
- Oversee all representational functions for the Ambassador and/or at the Residence
- Maintain the overall cleanliness of the interior of the Residence
- 5 years experience as Housekeeper/Cook preferred.
- Ability to communicate effectively in English both orally and in writing.
- References required

Please send resume, references and a brief covering letter to:  
**Email:** casey.parker@dfat.gov.au  
**Postal Address:** P.O. Box S, Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941  
**Contact:** 691-320-5448

Application closing date: **February 20, 2012**

Name: XUE JUN XING  
P.O. Box 502592  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Telephone No. 287-0508

PRO SE

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

<b>In the Matter of the Petition for the Change of Name of:</b>	<b>FCD CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0003</b>
<b>XUE JUN XING</b>	<b>NOTICE OF HEARING</b>
Petitioner.	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on February 23, 2012, at 9:30am in Courtroom 217A, before Association Judge Perry B. Inos.

Dated this 19th day of January, 2012.

BERNADITA SABLAN  
Clerk of Court

/s/Deputy Clerk of Court

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

<b>BANK OF SAIPAN, INC.,</b> Plaintiff,	<b>Civil Action No. 99-0575T</b>
<b>vs.</b>	<b>NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION</b>
<b>RUFINO M. MENDIOLA and BENSELIN MENDIOLA</b> Defendants.	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to an Order issued by this Court on August 14, 2009, in which the undersigned was Ordered to levy, execute and sell, in accordance with law, a parcel of real property, I will sell at public auction to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, Defendants' interest in and to the following real property situated in Marpo Valley, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as described below.

Lot No. 115 T 29 (formerly part of Lot 115 T 01), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 115 T 04, the original of which was recorded 16 November 93 as Document No. 93-4005 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

Date, time and place of sale:

The sale, open to the general public (including the Defendants), will be held on Friday, March 9, 2012, at 11:00 a.m. at the outdoor lobby, Tinian Superior Courthouse, San Jose Village, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DATED this 9th day of February, 2012.

/s/ Janet H. King, Esq.  
KING LAW OFFICE  
Tel. No.: (670) 285-1266  
e-mail: JanetHKing@gmail.com  
(Please cc: ShineShine2011@live.com)

**WHATZIT?**

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Find today's solution in classified section



Minor wins doubles in Australia

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Call 235- NEWS

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

FRIDAY JANUARY 7, 2011

Reporter's Notebook



# Block on buzzer gives Lakers win over Celtics



**BOSTON (AP)**—Pau Gasol blocked Ray Allen's putback attempt at the buzzer in overtime and the Los Angeles Lakers held on to beat the Boston Celtics 88-87 on Thursday night.

Kobe Bryant had 27 points, Gasol finished with 25 points and 14 rebounds, and Andrew Bynum added 16 points and 17 rebounds to help the Lakers snap a two-game losing streak.

Allen scored 22 points and Kevin Garnett had 12 points and 12 rebounds for Boston, which had won five in a row and nine of its previous 10 games. But Garnett was 6 for 23 from the field and Paul Pierce was 7 for 18, including a clean-look jumper at the end of overtime.

It rimmed out and Allen tried to push the rebound in, but Gasol got his fingertips on it and it floated away as the buzzer sounded.

The Lakers had lost six of their last seven games on the road.

But a trip to Boston to play the rival Celtics was just what they needed.

Both teams shot under 40 percent, and they each missed twice to start the overtime before Bryant sank a jumper that gave the Lakers an 84-82 lead with 3:30 left. Allen missed, then Steve Blake made a jumper to give the Lakers a four-point lead—their biggest of the game.

Pierce made a jumper and, after Gasol missed, Pierce hit a 3-pointer over Metta World Peace to make it 87-86 Boston. Bryant missed, but Bynum tipped it in with 1:30 left to give

L.A. the lead, and it held up.

Pierce finished with 18 points, nine rebounds and seven assists.

Bynum converted a three-point play to give the Lakers an 80-79 lead with 2:39 left in regulation, and it stayed that way through several trips down the floor before the Celtics called timeout with 1:16 left. After the inbounds pass, Allen made a catch-and-shoot 3-pointer to put Boston into the lead.

World Peace, who hit the NBA title-clinching basket for the Lakers against Boston in 2010 back when he was known as Ron Artest, missed a 3. Garnett grabbed the rebound and the "Beat L.A.!" chants began in the TD Garden.

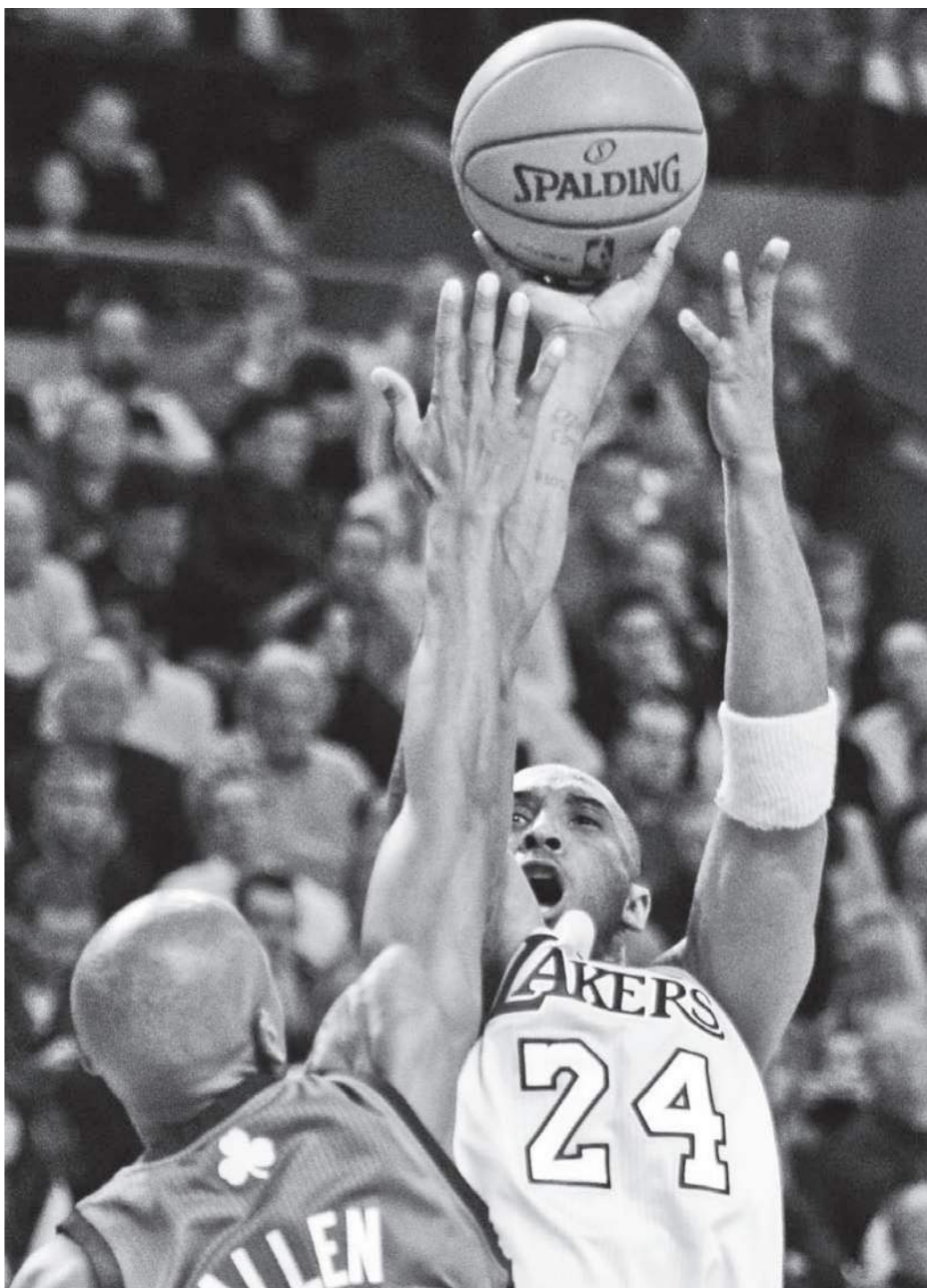
But Garnett missed a jumper and Gasol tipped in Bryant's miss to tie it 82-all. The Celtics had a chance to win it in regulation, but Pierce got trapped near midcourt and Pietrus was forced to fire up a no-chance 30-footer at the buzzer.

The Celtics led by nine points in the first quarter, but the Lakers erased the deficit in the second and briefly took a one-point lead at 38-37. Boston led 64-59 when Gasol converted a three-point play and Bryant made back-to-back jumpers to give Los Angeles a 66-64 lead.

## Kings 106, Thunder 101

In Sacramento, California, the Sacramento Kings pulled off a stunning upset by beating Oklahoma City, dropping the Thunder out of the NBA lead.

Tyreke Evans scored 22 points and DeMarcus Cousins



had 19 points and nine rebounds for Sacramento, which is in last place in the Pacific Division.

Sacramento scored its last nine points on free throws.

Russell Westbrook scored 33 points for Western Conference-leading Oklahoma City, which fell behind Chicago for the overall lead. The Thunder squandered an eight-point lead in the fourth quarter, committing six of their 23 turnovers in the period.

## Rockets 96, Suns 89

In Phoenix, Houston made it three straight wins by downing Phoenix.

Luis Scola scored 16 points and Patrick Patterson added 14 for the Rockets, who had a 57-13 edge in scoring from bench players. Channing Frye scored a season-high 21 points for the Suns, whose own three-game streak was ended.

## Warriors 109, Nuggets 101

In Denver, Stephen Curry scored a season-best 36 points as Golden State handed fading Denver its fifth straight loss.

The Nuggets are on their longest skid for five years, and have also lost five in a row at home.

Klay Thompson added 19 points for the Warriors.

Arron Affalo led the Nuggets with 26 points.

Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant (24) shoots over Boston Celtics guard Ray Allen (20) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Boston, Thursday, Feb. 9, 2012. AP

## NBA BRIEFS

### Cavaliers guard Irving recovering from concussion

**CLEVELAND (AP)**—Cavaliers rookie guard Kyrie Irving is being evaluated at the Cleveland Clinic as he recovers from a concussion. Irving missed his first game of the season Wednesday night with the concussion. He was kept out after the team diagnosed him with the head injury, which he sustained Tuesday night in Miami when he was accidentally kneed in the head by the Heat's Dwyane Wade. Irving complained of a headache while warming up before Wednesday's game against the Los Angeles Clippers, Cavs coach Byron Scott said. Irving remained in the locker room as his teammates won without him. Ramon Sessions started for Irving and scored a season-high 24 points with 13 assists. There is no timetable for Irving's return. The Cavaliers host Milwaukee on Friday and Philadelphia on Saturday.

### Report: Lakers to retire Shaq's jersey next season

The Los Angeles Lakers will retire Shaquille O'Neals No. 34 jersey during the 2012-2013 season, reports CBS Sports. The Lakers, who have only retired the jerseys of seven players, were supposed to retire O'Neals jersey this season, but due to the lockout and a shortened schedule the team was not able to create an appropriate time to follow through with their original plan. "Shaq had a long and amazing career," Laker's owner Jerry Buss' statement read. "A huge impact both on and off the court. His contributions were significant to the entire NBA, but we specifically appreciate what he did with and what he meant to the Lakers during his eight years with us. We have three championships that we wouldn't have won without him, and we will forever be grateful for his significant contributions to those teams." O'Neal was a four time NBA champion, three time NBA finals MVP, NBA MVP, NBA Rookie of the Year, and a 15 time NBA All-Star. Throughout his career he averaged 23.7 points, 10.9, and 2.3 blocks per game.

## Dirk, Pierce All-Stars; runs end for KG, Duncan

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Dirk Nowitzki and Paul Pierce overcame slow starts to return to the All-Star game, while lengthy runs ended for Kevin Garnett and Tim Duncan.

Nowitzki was chosen Thursday to his 11th straight All-Star game, despite his lowest scoring average since his second NBA season. Pierce has come on after a slow start caused by a foot injury and was picked for the 10th time.

But Garnett wasn't chosen after 14 consecutive selections, and Duncan was left out after 13 in a row. Other All-Star regulars such as Ray Allen and Amare Stoudemire will be home, giving way to five first-timers: Portland's LaMarcus Aldridge, Marc Gasol of Memphis, Andre Iguodala of Philadelphia, Indiana's Roy Hibbert, and Chicago's Luol Deng.

Also headed to Orlando for the Feb. 26 game are NBA assists leader Steve Nash of Phoenix, Tony Parker of San Antonio, Russell Westbrook of Oklahoma City, Kevin Love of Minnesota, Chris Bosh of Miami, Atlanta's Joe Johnson and Deron Williams of New Jersey.

Already voted to start by fans in the Eastern Conference were

Orlando's Dwight Howard, LeBron James and Dwyane Wade of Miami, Chicago's Derrick Rose and New York's Carmelo Anthony. The West starters are the Lakers' Kobe Bryant and Andrew Bynum, Chris Paul and Blake Griffin of the Clippers, and Oklahoma City's Kevin Durant.

Coaches voted for the reserves, and they had a tough task in this lockout-shortened season, when they were given only about 25 games to evaluate players. That threatened to make it tough for Nowitzki and Pierce, whose bodies weren't ready to go after the lengthy off-season and brief training camps, and have played below their usual standards.

"I think it's too early. I'm sitting on my couch when they announced the rosters and I'm floored. I didn't even know they had started the voting," Celtics coach Doc Rivers said.

But the coaches picked Nowitzki, the NBA finals MVP, even though his average of 17.6 points is his worst since he scored 17.5 per game in the 1999-00 season. The Mavericks shut him down for a few games to work on his conditioning, and even he wondered recently

whether his streak would continue, given the depth of players in his position in the West.

"It was a tough road back to full health for me, but I am honored that the coaches thought enough of me to make me an All-Star," Nowitzki said in a statement. "It has been a privilege to represent the Mavericks organization over the last decade and I look forward to doing it again in Orlando."

Pierce has been a little better, winning last week's East player of the week award and hiking his average to 18.4 per game, but acknowledged during an interview on TNT before the Celtics played the Lakers that he was a little surprised to be picked.

But he'll go alone from Boston, a year after Garnett, Allen and Rajon Rondo went with him. Duncan was there last year, too, having never missed an All-Star game since entering the league in the 1997-98 season.

"They're getting older," Rivers said. "It's just, you know, change. It happens."

Age didn't stop Nash, averaging 10 assists and shooting 56 percent from the field. He became just the fourth player to earn an All-Star spot at 38

or older, joining Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Michael Jordan and Karl Malone.

Coaches favored team success, with only Nash, Williams and Gasol getting picked from teams with losing records.

That left out All-Star hopefuls such as Milwaukee's Brandon Jennings, the Knicks' Stoudemire—who misses a chance to play near his Florida home—the Grizzlies' Rudy Gay and Golden State's Monta Ellis. Houston's Kyle Lowry also fell short in the West, where coaches picked three other point guards.

Minnesota's awful record last season nearly cost Love, though he eventually made it as an injury replacement. Putting up big numbers again and this time with the Timberwolves on the right side of .500, he was an easy pick.

"It's a lot of joy," Love said. "It's really a respect thing. I've had a great season thus far and we've had some success as a team. For me, it's definitely a big deal. I put in a lot of work these last three and a half seasons and I don't intend on stopping."

The snubbed players still have a chance if there is an injury. Commissioner David Stern chooses the injury replacements.



# Johnson in 3-way tie at Pebble; Tiger starts well



**PEBBLE BEACH, Calif.** (AP)—Twenty months later, Dustin Johnson

finally hit the drive he wanted at Pebble Beach. Ten years later, Tiger Woods must have wondered what kept him away from the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

On a spectacular day of scenery and scoring, Johnson blasted a tee shot on the third hole at Pebble Beach and then pitched in for eagle from 41 yards in front of the green. He added another eagle on his way to a 9-under 63 and a three-way tie atop the leaderboard Thursday.

Woods was five shots to par out of the lead, a solid start to his PGA Tour season. He had six birdies in a 4-under 68 at Spyglass Hill, the fourth-best score on that course. Spyglass was hardest of the three courses, though not by much. The weather was so pure that all three courses played about one shot under par.

Charlie Wi was over at Monterey Peninsula and had a shot at 59 without ever knowing it. Wi was 8 under after a tap-in birdie on the 13th hole, and needed only three birdies in the last five holes. Trouble is, he had no idea the Shore Course was a 70. He made one more birdie and had a 9-under 61.

"I was looking at the scorecard like, 'What's the par here?' I did not know it was a par 70," Wi said. "That 59 never crossed my mind. Not once."

Joining them was former U.S. Amateur Danny Lee, who holed a bunker shot for eagle at No. 2 and holed out from the 11th fairway with a wedge for another eagle to match Johnson at 9-under 63.

Johnson is turning into his generation's "Prince of Pebble." He won the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am in consecutive years, and then had a three-shot lead at Pebble in the U.S. Open two years ago until he shot 82 in the final round. On the third hole of that round, he hit driver left into the bushes for a lost ball and made double bogey.

On Thursday, he smashed a driver nearly 340 yards over the trees to just short of the green, setting up eagle. Even now, he still thinks about that tee shot in the U.S. Open. Walking off the tee, he



Dustin Johnson follows his shot from the seventh tee of the Pebble Beach Golf Links during the first round of the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am PGA Tour golf tournament in Pebble Beach, Calif., Thursday, Feb. 9, 2012.

said to caddie Bobby Brown, "I could have used that in the U.S. Open."

"Walking off that hole, I told Bob, 'This hole owes me a few more than

just that one.'"

Johnson overpowered the par 5s at Pebble Beach, the secret to playing that course well. He had a 6-iron for his second shot at the par-5 second for an easy birdie, holed a 65-foot eagle putt on the sixth hole, got up and down from the bunker just short of the 14th for birdie, then cringed when his 40-foot eagle attempt on the 18th just turned away.

"I thought it was going in," Johnson said. "I was laughing. I made plenty of putts today."

Woods made his share, too.

He opened with consecutive birdies, stuffing his approach on No. 10 and two-putting for birdie on the par-5 11th. He also holed a downhill, 8-foot birdie putt on the 17th that was good enough to elicit a small fist pump, and from behind the par-5 opening hole, hit a flop shot to 7 feet and made that.

One of his two bogeys was sloppy. It came on the short par-4 fourth, with a shallow green set among sand dunes and ice plant at a diagonal angle. Instead of going toward the middle of the green and letting the slope take the ball to the hole, Woods went at the flag. The ball bounced hard over the green and into a sandy patch of dunes, in a foot print.

He did well to blast a wedge some 30 feet past the hole and had a good two-putt from there for bogey. Woods picked up another birdie on the par-5 seventh for his 68. He played the par 5s in a 3 under.

"I don't know if it's a good sign or a bad sign," Woods said about his 68. "With the scores the way they are, I thought I could have it lower than I did. The guys are just tearing this place apart with no wind. I'm not too far away from posting a good number out here."

His partner, Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo, contributed pars on the holes where Woods made bogey, and Romo had a birdie on the par-5 14th when Woods missed the fairway and had to settle for par. As a team, they were tied for 25th.

Romo gets to play a forward tee, but he doesn't get any shots with a scratch handicap.

Phil Mickelson always entertains at No. 4 at Spyglass, a tee shot that gives

him so much stress each year. He is determined to hit driver, and did again Thursday, this time relieved to at least be able to find it. And while he missed a 7-foot birdie putt after a splendid flop out of deep rough that ran 100 feet across the green, Mickelson was glad the hole was behind him.

As for his 2-under 70?

"The greens were perfect," Mickelson said. "They rolled so good, and that's why it was disappointing to let some of those go. I've been putting really well lately, and I expected to make some of those. Shot a couple under par, but it could have been a lot better."

Johnson's lone mistake came from a poor tee shot on the par-3 12th into a bunker. His start was tough to beat, though. With a 4-foot birdie putt on the fourth, he made it through six holes in 6 under, and then played solidly from there.

"I've been working really hard the last three days on the putter and the driver, and it paid off," Johnson said. "I'm starting to roll the ball like I usually do."

Ken Duke shot a 28 on the back nine at Pebble Beach and was at 8-under 64, along with Brian Harman. Nick Watney and Kevin Na each had a 6-under 66, the lowest score from Spyglass.

The conditions were so good that more than half the field broke par no matter where they were playing.

## MLB BRIEFS

### Kershaw, Dodgers agree to \$19M, 2-year deal

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—NL Cy Young Award winner Clayton Kershaw and the Los Angeles Dodgers avoided a salary arbitration hearing next week, agreeing to a \$19 million, two-year contract. Tuesday's deal for the 23-year-old left-hander calls for a \$500,000 signing bonus and salaries of \$7.5 million this year and \$11 million in 2013. It covers all but his final year of arbitration eligibility. The agreement mirrors that of San Francisco's Tim Lincecum, who in his first time eligible for arbitration two years ago agreed to a \$23 million, two-year deal. Kershaw was 21-5 with a 2.28 ERA and 248 strikeouts last year, winning the NL pitching triple crown. After making \$500,000, he had asked for \$10 million in arbitration and had been offered \$6.5 million.

### Rangers, Cruz strike \$16M, 2-year deal

AL championship series MVP Nelson Cruz has agreed to a \$16 million, two-year contract with the Texas Rangers. The deal includes \$500,000 in performance bonuses over the two years. With the agreement, negotiated by agents Sam and Seth Levinson, Cruz avoids an arbitration hearing that had been scheduled for next week. A 31-year-old slugging outfielder, Cruz had asked for \$7.5 million in arbitration and the team had offered \$5.5 million. He made \$3.65 million last year. The deal came one day after Elvis Andrus and the Rangers completed a \$14.4 million, three-year contract that avoided a hearing. (AP)

# Armstrong says he's happy investigation over

**AUSTIN, Texas** (AP)—As far as Lance Armstrong is concerned, it's all over.

The stress, the waiting, the whispers about whether he doped during his stellar cycling career, all of it ended when—after nearly two years—federal prosecutors closed an investigation of him last week without bringing any charges.

"I'm happy. I'm glad it's behind me," Armstrong told The Associated Press on Thursday in his first interview since prosecutors announced they were dropping the case.

The seven-time Tour de France winner said he remained confident he would not be indicted, but admitted the weight of the long investigation took a toll on him personally.

"It's not a pleasant experience ... It was difficult at times," he said. "But I was confident that we would always end up in this place."

After speaking with the AP, Armstrong participated in a teleconference with media covering this weekend's triathlon in Panama City, Panama, where he is scheduled to compete.

For the now 40-year-old Armstrong, the federal government's decision should put a stop to any allegations or rumors about performance-enhancing drug use during his career.

"It's over," he said. "I'm moving on."

Armstrong maintains he has never failed a drug test, but he nonetheless became the focus of investigators' attention after former teammates Floyd Landis accused him in 2010 of participating in a doping program.

Landis was stripped of his 2006 Tour title after failing a drug test. Armstrong won every Tour from 1999-2005.

A federal grand jury in Los Angeles looked at whether a doping program was established for Armstrong's team while, at least part of the time, it re-

ceived government sponsorship from the U.S. Postal Service.

U.S. Attorney Andre Birotte Jr. announced last Friday his office had closed the case but did not give a reason.

The World Anti-Doping Agency followed up this week by urging the U.S. government to quickly hand over evidence collected in the investigation. Meanwhile, the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency's investigation into doping in cycling is continuing. When Armstrong's case was closed last week, USADA CEO Travis Tygart said he looked forward to obtaining the information developed during the federal probe.

"I don't want to get bogged down with that. I'm not concerned with that. I'm not going to worry about that," Armstrong said.

Armstrong, who has been known to attack his critics in the media and on Twitter, had only issued a muted writ-

ten statement in response to the end of the investigation when the decision was first announced.

He was reluctant to talk much more about it on Thursday, but said he had a quiet celebration with his family when the investigation was closed.

"I hugged my kids, hugged my girlfriend and went and opened a cold beer," Armstrong said.

Although Armstrong was convinced that he would not be indicted, the cyclist said he was ready to fight a costly legal battle if he was.

"You had to consider all possibilities," he said.

Armstrong said he'll turn his attention in 2012 to competing in Ironman triathlons and supporting the California Cancer Research Act, a proposal to increase taxes on cigarettes by \$1 a pack to raise more than \$500 million a year.

He also is the founder of the cancer charity Livestrong.



**TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES**

**NBA STANDINGS**

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division**

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	18	8	.692	—
Boston	14	11	.560	3 1/2
New York	11	15	.423	7
New Jersey	8	19	.296	10 1/2
Toronto	8	19	.296	10 1/2

**Southeast Division**

Miami	19	7	.731	—
Atlanta	17	9	.654	2
Orlando	16	10	.615	3
Washington	5	21	.192	14
Charlotte	3	22	.120	15 1/2

**Central Division**

Chicago	22	6	.786	—
Indiana	17	8	.680	3 1/2
Milwaukee	11	14	.440	9 1/2
Cleveland	10	14	.417	10
Detroit	7	20	.259	14 1/2

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Southwest Division**

San Antonio	18	9	.667	—
Houston	16	11	.593	2
Dallas	15	11	.577	2 1/2
Memphis	13	13	.500	4 1/2
New Orleans	4	22	.154	13 1/2

**Northwest Division**

Oklahoma City	20	6	.769	—
Denver	15	12	.556	5 1/2
Utah	13	11	.542	6
Portland	14	12	.538	6
Minnesota	13	13	.500	7

**Pacific Division**

L.A. Clippers	15	8	.652	—
L.A. Lakers	15	11	.577	1 1/2
Phoenix	11	15	.423	5 1/2
Golden State	9	14	.391	6
Sacramento	10	16	.385	6 1/2

**Yesterday's Games**

L.A. Lakers 88, Boston 87, OT  
Golden State 109, Denver 101  
Houston 96, Phoenix 89  
Sacramento 106, Oklahoma City 101

**PEBBLE BEACH SCORES**

**PEBBLE BEACH, California** (AP)—  
Scores Thursday from the Pebble Beach  
National Pro-Am, played at the 6,816-  
yard, par-72 Pebble Beach Golf Links (p),  
the 6,838-yard, par-70 Monterey Pen-  
insula Country Club Shore Course (m)  
and the 6,953-yard, par-72 Spyglass Hill  
Golf Club (s).

**FIRST ROUND**

Danny Lee	31-32-63p
Charlie Wei	28-33-61m
Dustin Johnson	30-33-63p
Ken Duke	36-28-64p
Brian Harman	31-33-64p
Nick Watney	31-35-66s
Josh Teater	30-34-64m
Graham DeLaet	32-34-66p
Kevin Na	33-33-66s
Bob Estes	34-33-67s
Daniel Summerhays	35-30-65m
Brendon Todd	32-35-67p
Richard H. Lee	33-32-65m
Hunter Mahan	32-33-65m
Joe Ogilvie	35-33-68p
Matt Every	34-34-68p
Joseph Bramlett	33-33-66m
Russell Knox	31-37-68s
Shane Bertsch	33-35-68p
Sang-Moon Bae	36-32-68s
Vijay Singh	32-36-68p
Greg Owen	35-33-68s
Sean O'Hair	34-34-68p
Aaron Baddeley	31-35-66m
Nathan Green	33-33-66m
Tiger Woods	34-34-68s
Jimmy Walker	34-35-69s
Woody Austin	33-34-67m
Ryuji Imada	32-35-67m
Zach Johnson	30-37-67m
Mark D. Anderson	34-35-69p
Charley Hoffman	33-34-67m
Pat Perez	32-35-67m
Chris Stroud	32-35-67m
Bryce Molder	33-34-67m
Brian Gay	37-32-69s
Steve Wheatcroft	35-34-69p
J.J. Killeen	29-38-67m
Kevin Stadler	36-33-69s
Jim Furyk	35-34-69s
Dudley Hart	35-35-70p
Rod Pampling	35-33-68m
Jason Bohn	36-34-70p
Arron Oberholser	38-32-70s
Padraig Harrington	30-38-68m

**GCA**

From Page 28

win in the final set, 19-17.

Meanwhile, back on Tues-  
day, KHS was defeated by  
MHS1 in all three sets, 25-10,  
25-11, and 15-12.

MHS' Varsity Lady Dolphins  
(MHS1) swept SIS' junior squad  
(SIS2) in all three sets, 25-17,  
26-24, and 15-8.

SIS1 fended off MHS2 on  
Tuesday in all three sets, 25-3,  
25-10, and 15-10.

**MANTA**

From Page 28

managed a slim, 13-11, lead in  
the opening 10 minutes built off  
of seven points from team cap-  
tain Angelo Salas.

SSHS' Jack Aranda then got  
his team's offense moving in the  
ensuing period and opened up a  
35-23 lead for the Manta Rays  
at halftime.

Teammate Jimmy Tudela  
also scored six points late in  
the second quarter that helped  
provide a nice cushion head-  
ing into the break.

A pair of 3-pointers by GCA's  
Moon Bin Hong kept the Eagles  
within range, but the Manta  
Rays kicked it in an extra gear  
at the start of the second half.

SSHS' Christian Mizer took  
over in the third quarter, tally-  
ing nine markers as the Manta

Rays pulled away, 57-38, with  
10 minutes left in the game.

Teammate Jaymark De Guz-  
man chipped in six points in  
support.

After going blow for blow  
early in the match, GCA ran  
out gas late in the game.  
SSHS wrestled down the ma-  
jority of the rebounds in the  
contest, which limited the  
Eagles' second-chance scor-  
ing opportunities.

Mizer led SSHS with 17  
points in the end, while GCA's  
Salas topped the field with 21.

Similar to the varsity duel,  
both SSHS and GCA's junior  
varsities started slow as the  
Manta Rays managed a 3-1  
lead against the Eagles in the  
first quarter.

GCA's Patrick Reyes heated  
up in the second period for  
eight points, but the Manta

**SAIPAN**

From Page 28

pei, who we expect will again at-  
tract a large number of followers  
and media coverage from Japan  
this year," said MVA Communi-  
ty Projects manager Martin Due-  
nas. "We are all excited about the

upcoming marathon, XTERRA  
Saipan Championship, and Tag-  
aman Triathlon in March."

Over 25 runners have already  
registered for the ultra-mara-  
thon. In addition, the Saipan  
Marathon offers a full marathon  
(26.2 mi./42.195km), a half  
marathon (13.1 mi./21.1km),

**THERE'S**

From Page 28

inappropriate gesture and we  
apologize to our viewers."

"There was a failure in NBC's  
delay system," the league's  
statement said. "The obscene  
gesture in the performance was  
completely inappropriate, very  
disappointing, and we apologize  
to our fans."

The problem with stepping out  
on the edge is that every so of-  
ten—just like Bradshaw toppling  
into the end zone despite his best  
intentions—you're going to come  
down on the wrong side of the  
line. That lesson was supposedly  
learned when Janet Jackson's in-  
famous "wardrobe malfunction"  
at halftime of the 2004 Super  
Bowl sparked an overwrought  
national debate about moral decay  
and prompted the Federal Com-  
munications Commission to slap  
CBS with a record \$550,000 fine.  
The fine was eventually voided,  
after five years of legal wrangling  
that reached all the way up to the  
Supreme Court and then back to  
a federal appeals court. The NFL  
vowed MTV would never pro-  
duce another halftime show, but  
as this latest one proved, the suits  
in charge aren't as risk-averse as  
their buttoned-down image might  
suggest. Otherwise, they would  
have exhumed Lawrence Welk  
and put him out on the stage.

Hype was an important com-  
modity back in the days when  
the Super Bowl was getting  
started. The late Lamar Hunt,  
who started as an AFL owner  
and wound up with the Kansas  
City Chiefs, came up with the  
title for the game after watching  
his kids bounce a "Super Ball"  
around the house, and he's gen-  
erally credited with the idea of  
attaching Roman numerals to  
distinguish each one, hoping  
to make the whole event seem  
more, well, magisterial. From

Rays still clung to a 13-12 lead  
at the half. Daniel Camacho  
led SSHS with seven markers  
in the first half.

Then after the pause GCA  
buckled down on defense and  
held the Manta Rays to just  
three points in the third quarter  
as they built a two-possession  
advantage, 21-17.

SSHS' Emerson Feria came  
alive in the fourth with a string  
of seven points, but GCA held  
strong in the fourth quarter for  
the win.

Feria was held to just one  
point before the start of the final  
period and finished with a team-  
high 12 points. However GCA's  
Dong Ha Lee delivered six big  
points at crunch time to keep  
GCA a step ahead in the match.

Lee's teammate Reyes led all  
scorers with 14.  
The season continues on

and a 10K (6.2 miles).

Each participant is required  
to pick up their race packet on  
March 2 at 4:30pm at Ameri-  
can Memorial Park, with no  
exceptions. The full marathon  
and 50K will begin at 4:30am  
on March 3, followed by the  
next two races. The entry fee in-

cludes the awards banquet, fin-  
isher's T-shirt, and a certificate  
of completion.

For more information, visit  
www.mymarians.com or or  
contact Ed Diaz of the Mari-  
anas Visitors Authority at edi-  
az@mymarianas.com or 664-  
3200/1. (MVA)

catch the ball at the same time."  
Celebrities have been drawn  
like flies to the event for some  
time now, but camera phones and  
a growing number of entertain-  
ment reporters and websites are  
ferreting out the sideshows that  
used to remain largely private af-  
fairs. Given the NFL's growing  
appetite for cross-marketing, it  
won't be long before the league  
borrows some ideas from the Os-  
cars and rolls out the red carpet  
before the game, then televises  
both teams' after-parties. Judging  
by the some of the videos that are  
already out there—showing Rob  
Gronkowski and several New  
England teammates dancing in  
various stages of undress, a few  
alongside rapper LMFAO on  
a stage while the crowd yells  
"Shots!"—there's plenty of en-  
tertainment yet to be mined.

By comparison, the winning  
New York Giants' celebrations  
looked tame. Brandon Jacobs  
reportedly had a message for  
Mrs. Brady during New York's  
victory parade—"she just needs  
to continue to be cute and shut  
up"—but more characteris-

Monday with a 4pm junior var-  
sity pairing between Kagman  
High School (1-2) and Saipan  
International School (0-3) fol-  
lowed by GCA's varsity squad  
taking on the Mount Carmel  
School (0-5) Knights.

**VARSITY**

**SSHS 77** – Mizer 17, Tudela  
15, De Guzman 12, Aranda 10,  
Salem 8, Alegre 7, Hofschneider  
7, Sablan 1.

**GCA 49** –Salas 21, Hong 12,  
Kim 6, Libut 4, Salas 4, Borja 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 11-13,  
35-23, 57-38, 77-49

**JUNIOR VARSITY**

**GCA 33** – Reyes 14, Lee 10,  
Smithee 5, Del Rosario 4.

**SSHS 32** – Feria 12, Cama-  
cho 9, Javier 6, Palacios 3.

**Scoring by quarters:** 1-3,  
13-12, 21-17, 33-32.

cludes the awards banquet, fin-  
isher's T-shirt, and a certificate  
of completion.

For more information, visit  
www.mymarians.com or or  
contact Ed Diaz of the Mari-  
anas Visitors Authority at edi-  
az@mymarianas.com or 664-  
3200/1. (MVA)

tic of the team's approach was  
quarterback Eli Manning's ap-  
pearance on "Late Show with  
David Letterman." He walked  
on with Queen's "We Are the  
Champions" blaring as his en-  
trance music and got a standing  
ovation before he landed in the  
guest's chair. But his material  
was strictly PG-rated.

"When you win a champi-  
onship, it's a team. It's a team  
coming together, and that's ex-  
actly what we did," Manning  
said. "I was happy for a lot of  
the guys. This is their first Super  
Bowl, so I think when you have  
one, that second one, you really  
do it for the other guys who've  
never had that experience."

Too bad nobody had a cell-  
phone camera when Barry  
Switzer, the renegade college  
coach, won a Super Bowl a few  
years after leaving Oklahoma  
and taking over the Dallas Cow-  
boys. He ran into one of players  
heading for the soiree scheduled  
to start in his hotel suite and ba-  
sically disavowed any responsi-  
bility for what was to follow by  
yelling, "Let's win the party!"



**Activity Schedule for February 11, 2012**



NMBA Gym will be temporarily closed due to the installation of taraflex flooring. The renovation of the badminton courts will be completed by February 12, 2012. For the meantime, members and players will be using the Gillette Multipurpose Gym for badminton practices starting February 1, 2012.



**Northern Marianas Badminton Association**  
8:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
(Morning practices)  
  
6:30 PM to 9:30 PM  
(Evening practices)



**2012 Men's B Futsal League**  
There are no games scheduled for today. Games will resume on Monday, February 13, 2012.





**Block on buzzer  
gives Lakers win  
over Celtics**

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

**Johnson in 3-way  
tie at Pebble;  
Tiger starts well**

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28 SATURDAY - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11-12, 2012

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Manta Rays scream past Eagles in boys caging

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
walter\_sutherland@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays routed the Grace Christian Academy Eagles, 77-49, in Wednesday's Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization boys basketball varsity matchup held at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



The win marked the Manta Rays' fifth out of six games, while GCA fell to a win-loss slate of 1-5.

Meanwhile, GCA snuck past SSS's Manta Rays, 33-32, in the junior varsity tiff.

Both teams now share identical cards of 3-2.

In the varsity match, GCA

**See MANTA  
on Page 27**



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Saipan Southern High School's Jaymark De Guzman challenges two Grace Christian Academy defenders during their MISO boys basketball varsity matchup Thursday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

## GCA gets revenge over SIS1 in girls volleyball

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
walter\_sutherland@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

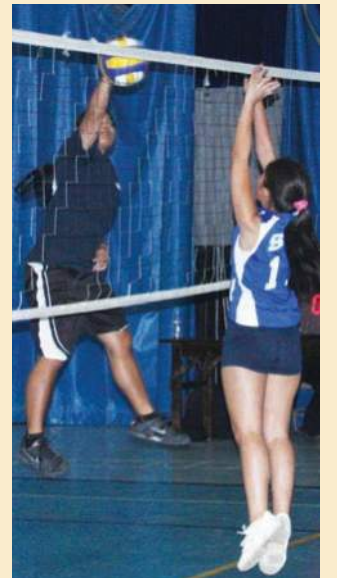
The Grace Christian Academy Lady Eagles upset erstwhile frontrunner Lady Geckos of Saipan International School (SIS1) in Thursday's Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization girls volleyball league held at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

SIS1 started strong and took the opening set, 25-15, but GCA roared back and stole the second set, 25-23.

The Lady Eagles then pulled off the upset in the final set, 15-12, to avenge its lone loss—coincidentally against the same Lady Geckos—during the first round of the season.

GCA is now tied with SIS in the standings as both teams now hold identical win-loss records of 9-1.

In addition, Kagman High School's Lady Ayuyus bested MHS' Junior Dolphins (MHS2) on Thursday. KHS won the first set, 25-15, but



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Grace Christian Academy's Michi Tenorio, seen here in a file photo, sends over a spike during the Lady Eagles' first MISO girls volleyball match against Saipan International School's varsity squad last month at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

stumbled in the second set, 17-25, before grinding out the

**See GCA on Page 27**

By JIM LITKE  
AP Sports Columnist

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at [jlitke@ap.org](mailto:jlitke@ap.org) and follow him at [Twitter.com/JimLitke](https://twitter.com/JimLitke).



## There's still a game in there somewhere

The strangest coaching decision during Super Bowl week wasn't when Bill Belichick ordered his defense to act like matadors and wave Giants running back Ahmad Bradshaw by for a touchdown from 6 yards out with less than a minute left in the game. That's just the one people will remember. The really odd one came four days earlier when the uber-prepared Patriots coach, anticipating a halftime show that would dictate a 30-minute intermission rather than the usual 12, ordered his players to take a break from practicing football and practice sitting in the locker room for a half-hour instead.

They missed Madonna! And that guy on the tightrope! Not to mention that moment when another of her sidekicks, the rapper M.I.A., saluted a worldwide TV audience using only one finger!

NBC didn't, of course, although the censor who was at the switch for such a moment turned out to be slow on the draw. The NFL didn't miss it, either, touching off a whole other kind of finger-pointing afterward over who was to blame.

"The NFL hired the talent and produced the halftime show," NBC said in a statement. "Our system was late to obscure the

**See THERE'S on Page 27**



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Japanese comedian Kampei Hazama (777) leads his group to the finish line of last year's Saipan Marathon.

## Saipan Marathon attracts celebrities

The 7th Saipan Marathon on March 3, 2012, has attracted a number of celebrities who will join Northern Mariana Islands tourism ambassador and Japanese comedian Kampei Hazama, who is returning for his third marathon this year.

The Marianas Visitors Authority and other event sponsors are

working to ensure every detail is addressed in preparing for the annual signature event of the Northern Marianas.

Kampei, as he is known, encouraged the addition of a 50K course at this year's race and will cheer on runners in the ultra-marathon.



Joining him at the race are stand-up comedian couple Daisuke and Hanako Miyagawa; comedian Kenji Tamura; comedian groups Total Tenbos, Ten Dollar, License, Genkiis, Izumo no Okuni; and musician Shinato Hazama. All are scheduled to

perform at the awards dinner and some will also run in the event. Actor Arthur Kuroda, who wed in Saipan last December, will also participate in the race.

"Early and extensive promotions is paying off, as well as the name-recognition of Kam-

**See SAIPAN on Page 27**